

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh, City Of
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Palace of Holyroodhouse (Gardens)
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90132-2010-01
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City Of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SE 35.00; NT27SE 197
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Palace; Park
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Centred c NT 269 739
START DATE (this season)	22 April 2010
END DATE (this season)	22 April 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of ten small holes in the grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. These were designed to take permanent survey markers, and were located around the S, E and N sides of the Palace complex. All the holes were hand dug by Historic Scotland staff, under archaeological supervision, and all measured 400 mm x 400 mm and were 125 mm deep. All these trenches were of such shallow depth that nothing of archaeological significance was recorded. The similar black sandy silt encountered in all trenches is likely to reflect the latest phase of use of the site as a garden.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2010**

**Holyrood Palace:
Survey Points Watching Brief
April 2010**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90132
Project Code: HSCO-90132-2010-01**



**22nd April 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	The Palace of Holyroodhouse
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 269 739
<u>Project Description</u>	Monitoring of the excavation of post-holes for the installation of permanent survey markers.
<u>Project Code</u>	HSCO-90132-2010-01

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to monitor the excavation of ten small holes in the grounds of Holyrood Palace. These were designed to take permanent survey markers, and were located around the S, E and N sides of the Palace complex. All the holes were hand dug by Historic Scotland staff, under archaeological supervision, and all measured 400mm x 400mm x125mm (Length x Width x Depth).

2.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

Trench 1 was located to the SE of the Palace, just to the S of the gravel path that skirts the building. It was dug through moderately compact black sandy silt that contained some small sub angular gravel chips throughout.

Trench 2 was dug to the SE of Trench 1, close to the E boundary wall of the Palace grounds. The soil encountered was a moderately compact black sandy silt, with occasional small sub angular gravel chips and frequent roots throughout.

Trench 3 was to the W of Trench 2, close to the S boundary of the Palace grounds. The deposit excavated was again a moderately compact black sandy silt, with small amounts of sub angular gravel within.

Trench 4 was located a little to the NW of Trench 3. Moderately compact black sandy silt was encountered, with some medium sized stones throughout. One of these bore traces of pale yellow mortar.

Trench 5 was to the NE of Trench 4. Moderately compact black sandy silt flecked with mortar was encountered.

Trench 6 was dug to the NE of the Abbey ruins, within a raised flower bed.

Moderately compact black sandy silt with some sub angular gravel chips within it was removed.

Trench 7 was dug to the NW of Trench 7, due N of the upstanding E end of the Abbey. A moderately compact black sandy silt with some sub angular gravel chips and roots throughout was excavated.



Figure 1: Trench 1 following excavation.

Trench 8 lay some 20m N of the W end of the Abbey ruins. A moderately compact black sandy silt, with occasional rounded gravel chips, was encountered.

Trench 9 was excavated to the NW of Trench 8, some 10m S of the sundial. A moderately compact black sandy silt with some sub angular gravel chips and roots was encountered.

Trench 10 was dug to the N of Trench 9, lying to the E of the gate at the N end of the W wall that surrounds the site, in a raised bed of heather. Some 50mm of black sandy silt was removed, overlying a pale grey silty clay; both were thick with roots.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

All these trenches were of such shallow depth that nothing of archaeological significance was recorded. The similar black sandy silt encountered in all trenches is likely to reflect the latest phase of use of the site as a garden.

4.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
1	Plan showing location of survey points	NTS

5.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 1 as finished	E	22/04/2010
2	Trench 1, general shot	SE	22/04/2010
3	Trench 2 as finished	N	22/04/2010
4	Trench 2, general shot	SE	22/04/2010
5	Trench 3 as finished	S	22/04/2010
6	Trench 3, general shot	S	22/04/2010
7	Trench 4 as finished	SE	22/04/2010
8	Trench 4, general shot	S	22/04/2010
9	Trench 5 as finished	S	22/04/2010
10	Trench 5, general shot	S	22/04/2010
11	Trench 6 as finished	SE	22/04/2010
12	Trench 6, general shot	NW	22/04/2010
13	Trench 7 as finished	SE	22/04/2010
14	Trench 7, general shot	W	22/04/2010
15	Trench 8 as finished	N	22/04/2010
16	Trench 8, general shot	N	22/04/2010
17	Trench 9 as finished	N	22/04/2010
18	Trench 9, general shot	NW	22/04/2010
19	Trench 10 as finished	S	22/04/2010
20	Trench 10, general shot	E	22/04/2010