

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Palace of Holyroodhouse (Gardens)
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90132-2010-02
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City Of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
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NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 2692 7385
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PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was maintained during the removal of an area of pampas grass in the gardens of Holyrood Palace. The hole left by the removal of the pampas grass was to be reused for the planting of a mulberry tree.</p> <p>An E-W aligned wall line was revealed. This was at least 950 mm wide, and a maximum of 1.05 m wide at its W end. This substantial wall bonded by lime mortar likely represents part of the expanded 17th-century Palace, with its N face lying 13.30 m S of the S wall of the extant Palace buildings.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
EMAIL ADDRESS:	g_ewart@hotmail.com
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**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2010**

Holyrood Palace: Pampas Grass Removal April 2010

**HS PIC Index Number: 90132
Project Code: HSCO-90132-2010-02**



**27th & 28th April 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	The Palace of Holyroodhouse
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 2692 7385
<u>Project Description</u>	Removal of a large pampas grass in the Palace grounds
<u>Project Code</u>	HSCO-90132-2010-02

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of the PIC call-off contract, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked by Historic Scotland to monitor the removal of an existing large pampas grass in the grounds of Holyrood Palace. The hole left by the removal of the pampas grass was reused for the planting of a mulberry tree.

The pampas grass was located c.14m S of the Palace. The intention was to plant the new mulberry tree towards the N end of the hole left by the pampas grass, in order to keep it away from the path to its immediate S.

The work was undertaken over two days, 27th - 28th April 2010, and was all done by hand.

2.0 DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

The first task was to excavate a small slot, c.300mm deep and 300mm wide around the pampas grass - the dimensions of which were c.1.8 m N/S by 1.5 m E/W. The pampas was sawn into four quarters and each section dragged from the ground. It was found to be in the centre of a circular cut (007) c.1m in diameter and up to 0.5m deep. This was filled by (006), a loose mix of pale to dark grey fine silt, pale yellow mortar, sandstone chunks (some with mortar attached) and discrete patches of dark brown peaty soil. All but the southern 150mm of (007) was found to overlie (and be dug down into) the top of (what was interpreted as) an E/W aligned wall (010), described fully below. A large quantity of finds was recovered from (006), including medieval and later pottery sherds, a clay pipe stem, a fragment of bottle glass, fragments of ceramic drainpipe, a copper alloy button, half a handmade brick and a fragment of a sandstone slab pierced for use as a slate.

After the excavation of (007) an attempt was made to rationalize the shape of the trench. This was achieved by extending it slightly to the N, to allow it to be cut

straight at this end, while leaving the S end curved. This gave the trench an E/W width of 2.05m and a maximum N/S length of 2.75m. During the removal of the pampas grass it was noticed that two service pipes ran N/S up the W side of the trench, and these were excavated next. The eastern pipe (004) proved to be a lead pipe 40mm diameter in a cut (005) which ran up the trench (of length 2.5m at this point) and was 400mm deep. Its W side had been removed by cut (003), again running up the trench N/S and 350 mm deep, with its W edge outside the trench but at least 250mm wide. Its mixed fill (002) contained a ceramic drainpipe 110mm in diameter with a metal pipe of 60mm diameter within. Some of the finds labelled as being from (006) doubtless originated from within these two features.

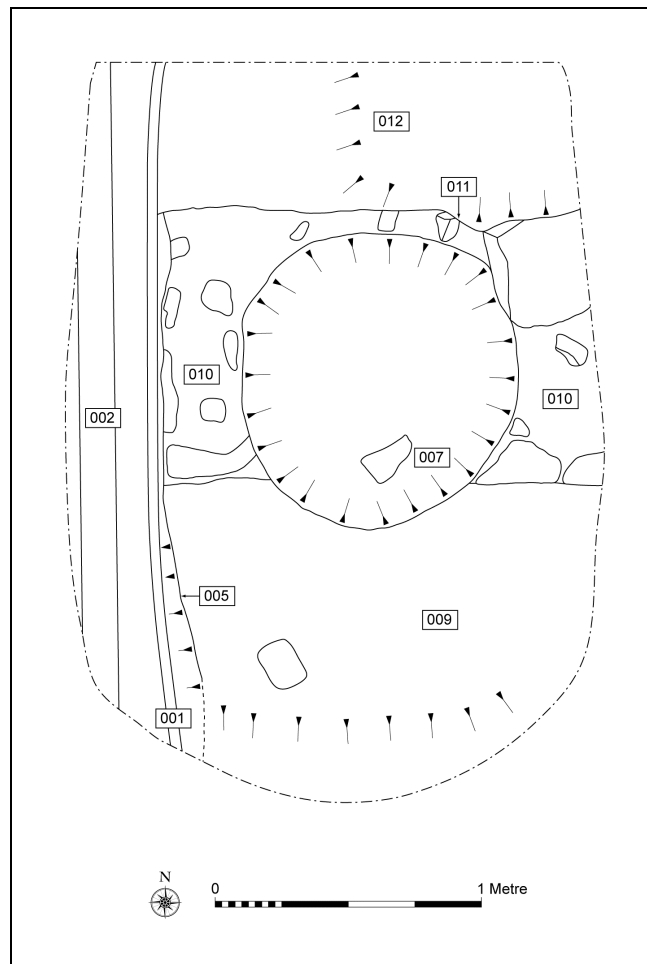


Figure 1: Plan of the trench following excavation.

A careful cleaning of the trench at this stage revealed an E/W wall (010), with (007) dug down through its centre, and (003) and (005) truncating its W end, although the wall continued below all of these contexts. (010) proved to be c.950mm wide and built of medium to large roughly dressed sandstone blocks forming its N and S faces. Between these an area c.500mm N/S, filled by smaller sandstone fragments, formed a core. All this was bonded by copious amounts of fine pale yellow mortar rich in shell and small sub angular stone inclusions. (010) was at least 1.9m E/W and stood at least 250mm high within the trench. Its basal course was not revealed.

Along the S side of (010) lay (009), an unexcavated deposit of fine dark grey silt, rich in mortar flecks. This followed the regular, straight, S edge of (010), and was presumed to post-date it. To the N, (010) had a noticeably more irregular edge where it met (008), a mix of grey silt, sandstone rubble, ash, charcoal and coal. As the new tree was to be planted at this end, this context was excavated and proved to be up to 400mm deep. (008) produced some white china and a handmade brick fragment. This was thought to sit in a cut, (011), which sloped away to the N from the N edge of (010). It had a flat base on two levels, lower to the W. (011) was dug against (012), an equal mix of fine dark grey silt and ash/charcoal, banked up against the N face of (010). A limited amount of (012) was excavated, essentially where it lay against (010), in order to achieve the required 400mm depth for the trench. This produced a large quantity of white china (possibly from only a couple of vessels) as well as a fragment of window glass. The removal of (012) exposed a further 100mm wide band of (010), along the W two-thirds of its length, making it 1.05m wide.



Figure 2: N end of the trench following excavation.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

The major discovery of this work was an E/W wall line represented by (010). This was at least 950mm wide, and a maximum of 1.05m wide at its W end. It is unclear if this represented footings (perhaps also to be exposed on the S side below the unexcavated 009) or if the E end has been damaged by cut (011). This substantial wall bonded by lime mortar likely represents part of the expanded seventeenth century Palace, with its N face lying 13.3m S of the S wall of the extant Palace buildings.

The deposits to the N of (010) were interpreted as a cut (011) in-filled by (008), dug against (012). As both (008) and (012) sloped away from the N edge of (010) it was possible that both were tip lines of deposits dumped against this wall, perhaps to raise the ground level, rather than being a cut (of unknown function against an earlier deposit). Both deposits produced late nineteenth century or later finds, and whichever explanation is correct they seem to represent activity after (010) had gone out of use. (009) to the S, although unexcavated, may represent post-abandonment infill of (010).

Two service pipes have been inserted along the W side of the trench, both cut through (010), with the lead pipe (004) earlier than the ceramic sleeved pipe (002). The circular cut (007) for the pampas grass was dug down into the top of (010).

4.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Fill of (003)
003	N/S cut for ceramic pipe
004	Fill of (005)
005	N/S cut for lead pipe
006	Fill of (007)
007	Circular cut for pampas grass
008	Loose mix of silt and mortar to N of (010), fill of (011)
009	Compact mix of silt and mortar to S of (010)
010	E/W wall line
011	Cut at N end of trench filled by (008)
012	Ashy deposit cut by (011)

5.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Description	Scale
1	Plan of trench as finished	1:20
2	Plan showing location of trench	1:50

6.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	General pre-excavation shot	SE	27/04/2010
2	General pre-excavation shot	SW	27/04/2010
3	General pre-excavation shot	SW	27/04/2010
4	Trench after initial cleaning	S	27/04/2010
5	Trench after initial cleaning	S	28/04/2010
6	Trench after initial cleaning	S	28/04/2010
7	Trench after initial cleaning	S	28/04/2010
8	Trench after initial cleaning	W	28/04/2010
9	Trench after initial cleaning	E	28/04/2010
10	Pre-excavation shot of (008)	S	28/04/2010
11	N end of trench	S	28/04/2010
12	Detail of E end of wall (010) and cut (007)	W	28/04/2010
13	Detail of W end of wall (010) and cut (007)	E	28/04/2010
14	N end of trench as finished	S	28/04/2010

No.	Description	From	Date
15	N end of trench as finished	W	28/04/2010
16	N end of trench as finished	E	28/04/2010
17	W end of trench as finished	E	28/04/2010
18	W end of S facing section of trench	S	28/04/2010
19	E end of S facing section of trench	S	28/04/2010
20	Trench as finished	S	28/04/2010
21	Trench as finished, showing the S wall of the Palace in the background	S	28/04/2010
22	Trench as finished, detail of N end	S	28/04/2010
23	Trench as finished, detail of N end	W	28/04/2010
24	Trench as finished, showing relationship to the Palace	SE	28/04/2010
25	Trench as finished, showing relationship to the Palace	SE	28/04/2010
26	Find No.1 Stone roof tile	N/A	N/A
27	Find No.1 Stone roof tile	N/A	N/A
28	Find No.2 Floor tile	N/A	N/A
29	Find No.2 Floor tile	N/A	N/A
30	Find No.3 tile fragment	N/A	N/A
31	Find No.3 tile fragment	N/A	N/A
32	Find No.4 tile fragment	N/A	N/A
33	Find No.4 tile fragment	N/A	N/A
34	Find No.5 tile fragment	N/A	N/A
35	Find No.5 tile fragment	N/A	N/A
36	Find No.6 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
37	Find No.6 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
38	Find No.7 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
39	Find No.7 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
40	Find No.8 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
41	Find No.8 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
42	Find No.9 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
43	Find No.9 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
44	Find No.10 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
45	Find No.10 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
046	Find No.11 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
047	Find No.11 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
048	Find No.12 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
049	Find No.12 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
050	Find No.13 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
051	Find No.13 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
052	Find No.14 Brown glass shard	N/A	N/A
053	Find No.14 Brown glass shard	N/A	N/A
054	Find No.15 Clay pipe stem	N/A	N/A
055	Find No.15 Clay pipe stem	N/A	N/A

No.	Description	From	Date
056	Find No.16 Metal button	N/A	N/A
057	Find No.16 Metal button	N/A	N/A
058	Find No.17 Bone	N/A	N/A
059	Find No.17 Bone	N/A	N/A
060	Find No.18 Bone	N/A	N/A
061	Find No.18 Bone	N/A	N/A
062	Find No.19 Bone	N/A	N/A
063	Find No.19 Bone	N/A	N/A
064	Find No.20 Tile fragment	N/A	N/A
065	Find No.20 Tile fragment	N/A	N/A
066	Find No.21 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
067	Find No.21 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
068	Find No.22 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
069	Find No.22 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
070	Find No.23 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
071	Find No.24 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
072	Find No.24 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
073	Find No.25 China rim sherd	N/A	N/A
074	Find No.25 China rim sherd	N/A	N/A
075	Find No.26 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
076	Find No.26 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
077	Find No.27 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
078	Find No.27 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
079	Find No.28 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
080	Find No.28 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
081	Find No.29 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
082	Find No.29 China serving dish sherd	N/A	N/A
083	Find No.30 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
084	Find No.30 Potter sherd	N/A	N/A
085	Find No.31 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
086	Find No.31 Pottery sherd	N/A	N/A
087	Find No.32 Blue willow china sherd	N/A	N/A
088	Find No.32 Blue willow china sherd	N/A	N/A
089	Find No.33 Clear glass shard	N/A	N/A
090	Find No.33 Clear glass shard	N/A	N/A
091	Find No.34 Bone	N/A	N/A
092	Find No.34 Bone	N/A	N/A
093	Find No.35 Bone	N/A	N/A
094	Find No.35 Bone	N/A	N/A

7.0 APPENDIX 4: LIST OF SMALL FINDS WITH DIMENSIONS

Find No.	Context	Bag No.	Find Type	Description
1	006	1	Stone	Large fragment of buff-grey fine grained sandstone with 11mm diameter nail hole. Possible roof tile.
2	006	1	Tile	Large fragment of buff to red/orange unglazed fired clay floor tile with square in shape with an intact right angle on one side and the other deteriorated. Extensive heat damage evident by the faulted/wrinkled appearance and dark grey colouring.
3	006	1	Tile	Fragment of buff-orange fired clay tile with a slightly curved shape like a pan tile. Substantial remnants of lime mortar with 3-4mm sub angular inclusion on the concave side of the tile and a 7mm circular groove on the convex side possibly from a nail.
4	006	1	Tile	Fragment of buff-orange fired clay tile with a slightly curved shape like a pan tile. No remnants of mortar on this tile but a rough surface appears to be an imprint of where mortar once was.
5	006	1	Tile	Fragment of buff-orange fired clay. Fabric consists of smooth clay with 3-8mm sub angular inclusions. One side has a smooth appearance with a square hole 8mm x 8mm. The opposite side has a angular edge indented into the fabric of the artifact where another piece appears to have been attached.
6	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of medieval pottery with a buff exterior and internal reduced grey ware. From the bottom of a pot or bowl with a defined foot and side. Remnants of green glaze on the convex side and only slight traces of glaze on top of light buff/white slip on the concave interior.
7	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of medieval pottery with a buff exterior, reduced grey ware interior and green glaze on the concave interior of the vessel. Wheel thrown with defined finger grooves on the vessel interior.
8	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of buff coloured wheel thrown pottery. Rolled rim sherd, unglazed.
9	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Light blue cracked glaze on both sides. Curved shape appears to have been apart of a bowl vessel.
10	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Light blue cracked glaze on both sides.
11	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Cream/white cracked glaze on both sides.
12	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery/stoneware. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with no inclusions. White smooth glaze. Rim sherd. Relatively modern.
13	006	1	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery/stoneware. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with no inclusions. White smooth glaze. Relatively modern.
14	006	1	Glass	Fragment of brown/bottle glass. Thick opaque glass with visible crystallized minerals, from the bottom of a bottle.
15	006	1	Clay	Fragment of a clay pipe stem. 9mm diameter, 3mm diameter hole, white fabric.
16	006	1	Metal	Button. Cast form with concave face and broken thread hole on the back. Made of a possible iron alloy that rusts red. Rust found on the rim of the button face, may have had an enamel

Find No.	Context	Bag No.	Find Type	Description
				inset at one time. 8mm diameter.
17	006	1	Bone	Animal bone, appears to be a long bone of an appendage with damaged on both the distal and proximal ends.
18	006	1	Bone	Animal bone most likely a piece of vertebra.
19	008	2	Bone	Rib fragment possibly from a bovine species. Strange angular cut on one side appears deliberate.
20	008	2	Tile	Fragment of buff to red/orange unglazed fired clay floor tile with rectangular in shape with an intact right angle on one side and the other deteriorated.
21	008	2	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery/stoneware. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with no inclusions. White smooth glaze. Relatively modern.
22	008	2	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Cream/white cracked glaze on both sides.
23	008	2	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Cream/white cracked glaze on both sides.
24	008	2	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Cream/white cracked glaze on both sides. One side has a curvilinear incised line with a slightly blue glaze.
25	008	2	China	Rim sherd. Thin white fabric wheel thrown china with a white cracked glaze and cobalt rim decoration. Pottery runs for about 33mm from the rim before dropping off sharply. Possible serving dish with wide decorative rim.
26	012	3	China	Thin white fabric wheel thrown china with white cracked glaze. Possible serving dish with wide rim, shallow dish and small foot. Fits together with Find # 25.
27	012	3	China	Thin white fabric wheel thrown china with white cracked glaze.
28	012	3	China	Thin white fabric wheel thrown china with white cracked glaze.
29	012	3	China	Thin white fabric wheel thrown china with white cracked glaze. Fragment of a flat bottomed serving dish with curvilinear sides and small foot.
30	012	3	Pottery	Fragment of cream coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, cream fabric with little to no inclusions. Cream/white cracked glaze on both sides.
31	012	3	Pottery	Fragment of white coloured pottery. Most likely wheel thrown, white fabric with no inclusions. White glaze on both sides. Rim sherd.
32	012	3	China	Fragment of Blue Willow patterned china with yellow/gold rim design. White fabric with no inclusions. Part of a larger round vessel.
33	012	3	Glass	Clear glass fragment with slight iridescence.
34	012	3	Bone	Vertebra bone most likely animal
35	012	3	Bone	Long bone from a small animal.

DIMENSIONS OF SMALL FINDS

Find No.	Length	Width	Height	Same as
1	160mm	20mm	130mm	
2	90mm	30mm	100mm	
3	100mm	15mm	40mm	
4	55mm	10mm	34mm	Find No. 3
5	55mm	20mm	45mm	
6	75mm	10-15mm	60mm	
7	45mm	6mm	35mm	
8	38mm	4mm	20mm	
9	50mm	6mm	42mm	
10	23mm	4mm	7mm	Find No. 9
11	29mm	4mm	28mm	
12	40mm	4mm	18mm	
13	36mm	4mm	20mm	Find No. 12
14	55mm	9mm	22mm	
15	49mm			
16		4mm		
17	86mm			
18	30mm			
19	60mm			
20	52mm	27mm	30mm	Find No.2
21	23mm	2mm	23mm	Find No.s 12 and 13
22	30mm	2mm	22mm	
23	68mm	4mm	60mm	
24	28mm	4mm	15mm	Find No. 23
25	43mm	2mm	38mm	
26	118mm	3mm	40mm	Find No. 25
27	52mm	4mm	40mm	Find No. 25, 26
28	60mm	4mm	39mm	Find No.s 17-25
29	150mm	3mm	82mm	Find No.s 25-28
30	6mm	2mm	14mm	
31	18mm	2mm	7mm	
32	85mm	2mm	62mm	
33	35mm	3mm	20mm	
34	40mm			
35	60mm			