

## *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Edinburgh, City Of
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Holyrood Park
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90131-2015-02
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh, City Of
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Magdalena Benysek
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT27SE 197; NT27SE 41
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Park; Chapel
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NT 2742 7273; NT 2754 7373; NT 2755 7315
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	28 October 2015
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	30 October 2015
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained during excavations and works to repair footpaths around Holyrood Park. The areas affected were a c 180m length of the footpath between Guttred Haddie and Lion's Haunch (NT 2755 7315) and various sections of the path to the south and west of St Anthony's Chapel (NT 2742 7273; NT 2754 7373) There were no finds of archaeological significance.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Environment Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE  
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2014/2015**

**Holyrood Park • Watching Brief • February/March 2015**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90131**

**SITE:** Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.

**N.G.R.:** NT 2742 7273; NT 2754 7373; NT 2755 7315

**DESCRIPTION:** An archaeological watching brief attached to work undertaken to repair public footpaths in three areas of Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.

**PROJECT CODE:** HSCO-90131-2015-02

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**A P R I L 2 0 1 5**

## INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to monitor repairs to:

1. A c.180m length of the public footpath (across two discrete areas) running from Guttered Haddie to Lion's Haunch (Fig.1, left); and,
2. Various sections of the public path to the south and west of St. Anthony's Chapel (Fig.1, right).

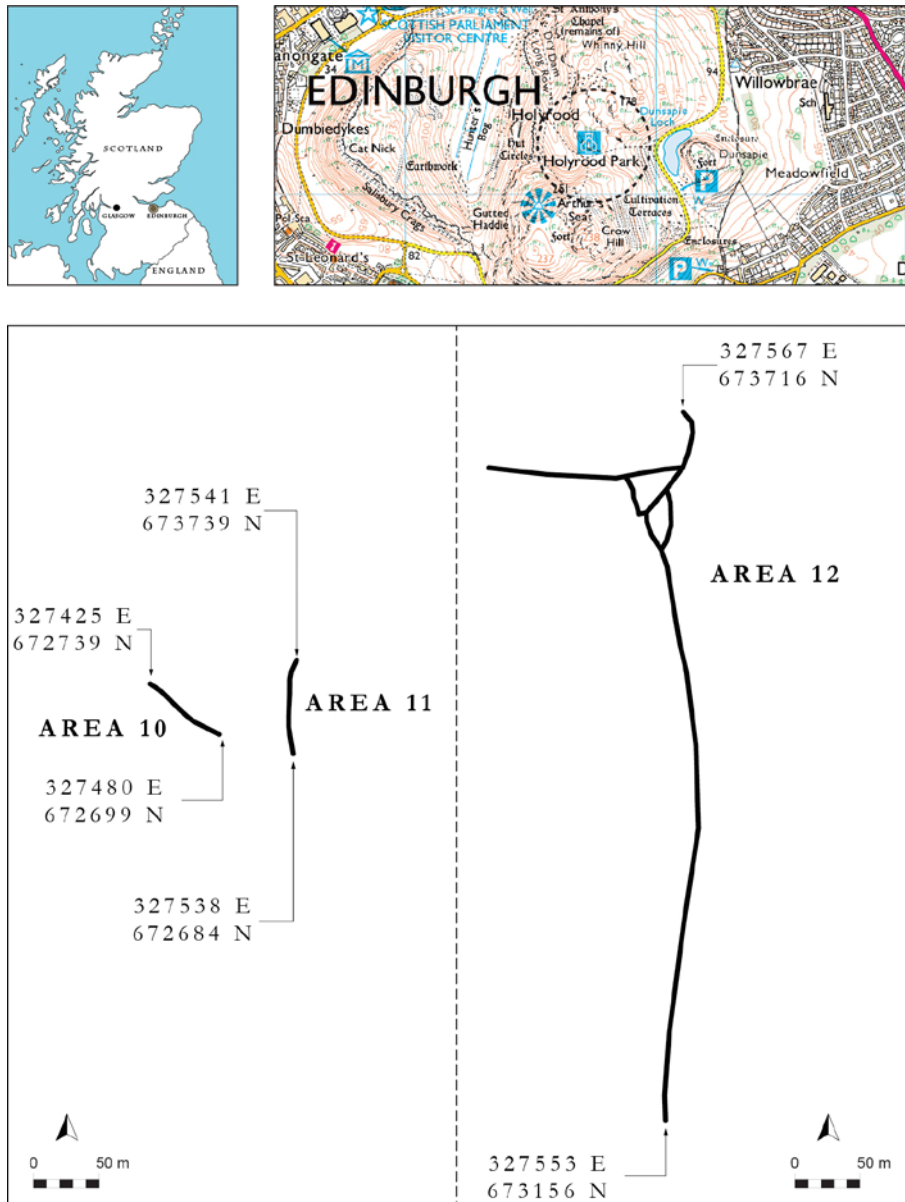


Figure 1: The location of the three areas of work.

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The work was carried out under an archaeological watching brief, with the main work carried out by a contractor, with occasional archaeological intervention (hand-digging) as necessary. It took place on various occasions during February/March, 2015.

## **DESCRIPTION**

### **Gutted Haddie to Lion's Haunch**

The work on the public footpath from Gutted Haddie to Lion's Haunch focussed on two areas. In line with Historic Scotland's project drawing for the work (Ref: 2014-48-[90]-002B) the two areas monitored were referred to as Area 10 and Area 11.

#### **Area 10**

The work involved the removal of old stones and the straightening and supporting of the path edge to the south-west. The area across which the work took place was *c.*100m in length by *c.*1m - 2m wide.



**Plate 1:** Area 10, work in progress.

The maximum depth to which excavation was undertaken was *c.*0.3m, and saw the removal of a mid-reddish/brown sandy topsoil **10001** - some of which could have been imported when the path was originally constructed in 2003. All the stones removed during the works in this area sat within it, and were ascribed the generic context number **10002**.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

### Area 11

Area 11 was defined as a c.80m long stretch of path near the summit of Arthur's Seat on its south-west slope. The path lay in a dip between two rises of the hill, possibly the result of quarrying, though it seems more likely to be a natural gully used as route to the summit, which was further developed in 2003 when the path was formalized.

The work in Area 11 saw the repair of old water bars, and the installation of new water bars and steps. Work was also undertaken to prevent further erosion to the path through edge remodeling and localized landscaping around the path.



Plate 2: Area 11, work in progress.

The total area of works measured c.80m in length by c.2m in width. The maximum depth of the works in Area 11 was c.0.4m, occurring towards the centre of the path, where a number of large stones were located.

The upper half of the path's length was characterized by the appearance of a dark brown sandy silt (**11001**), featuring denuded hollows exposing bedrock in places. The soil appeared to be *in-situ*, and not disturbed during the path formalization in 2003.

The lower section of the path featured the same mid-reddish/brown sandy topsoil (**11002**) noted in Area 10. It again seemed likely to have been imported in 2003 and then subsequently compacted and eroded by



walkers (as well as natural processes). Again there were a number of randomly distributed stones throughout it and they were ascribed the generic context number **11003**.

Nothing of archaeological significance was noted.

### **St. Anthony's Chapel<sup>1</sup>**

The work was undertaken along various sections of the public footpath to the south and west of St. Anthony's Chapel. It included stabilizing the soil adjacent to the path through re-grassing and bush-planting, as well as improvements directly to the path itself: lessening the gradient of its steps, improvements to drainage, creation/improvement of steps, placing new stones along the path edges and top dressing.



**Plate 3:** The finds from context 12002.

The maximum depth of works was  $\approx 0.5\text{m}$ , with most of the excavation occurring within a mid-reddish/brown sandy topsoil **12001**.

At a distance of  $\approx 30\text{m}$  to the south of the northernmost limit of the working area, an anthropogenic deposit (**12002**) was found at a depth of  $\approx 0.12\text{m}$ . It consisted of ash and slag, though there was no evidence of *in-situ* burning. The deposit did not appear to be sitting within a formal cut, but rather had the

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<sup>1</sup> For ease of reporting, this area of work was termed 'Area 12'.

appearance of a random dump or spread; it occurred within an irregular layer c.0.6m long x c.0.5m wide which varied from c.0.12m to c.0.3m in depth, with an uneven surface and base. It can best be interpreted as refuse collected from a domestic fire.

Finds from within **12002** included a piece of Victorian pottery, shards of glass, and a piece of wire. None were retained, and **12002** is probably of fairly recent date given its make-up, location and depth.

## **C O N C L U S I O N S**

Almost all the work was conducted to a relatively shallow depth within soil that appeared to have been introduced to the area relatively recently.

Other than the fairly recent localised rubbish dump **12002**, nothing of archaeological significance was noted. However, given the long history of the site, and the proximity to extant archaeology of undoubted historic importance – *e.g.* St. Anthony's Chapel – it is recommended that all future ground-breaking works be similarly monitored.

## LIST OF CONTEXTS

No	Area	Description
10001	10	Turf and mid-dark brown silty topsoil.
10002	10	Generic number for stone removed from Area 10.
11001	11	Dark brown sandy silt topsoil in the upper part of the area of works.
11002	11	Mid-reddish/brown sandy topsoil in the lower part of the area of works.
11003	11	Generic number for stone removed from Area 11.
12001	12	Mid-reddish/brown sandy topsoil.
12002	12	Anthropogenic deposit of ash and slag, containing pottery, glass and wire.
12003	12	Generic number for stone removed from Area 12.

## LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Location plan of Areas 10 and 11.	1:500
2	Plan	Location plan of Area 12.	1:500

## LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Area 10: General view.	E	22/02/2015
2	Area 10: General view.	E	22/02/2015
3	Area 10: Work in progress.	W	26/02/2015
4	Area 10: Work in progress.	SW	26/02/2015
5	Area 10: Work in progress.	E	26/02/2015
6	Area 10: The north side of the path.	NW	26/02/2015
7	Area 10: General view of the path, looking up hill.	E	26/02/2015
8	Area 10: Work in progress.	E	26/02/2015
9	Area 10: Work in progress.	E	26/02/2015
10	Area 10: Work in progress.	E	26/02/2015
11	Area 11: The path and surroundings, looking up hill.	N	04/03/2015
12	Area 11: The path and surroundings, looking down hill.	SW	04/03/2015
13	Area 11: The path and surroundings, looking down hill.	SW	04/03/2015
14	Area 11: Details of the path and work in progress.	E	13/02/2015
15	Area 11: Details of the path and work in progress.	SE	22/02/2015
16	Area 11: Details of the path and work in progress.	SE	22/02/2015
17	Area 11: Details of the path and work in progress.	S	13/02/2015
18	Area 11: Details of the path and work in progress.	NW	13/02/2015
19	Area 11: Details of the path and work in progress.	S	13/02/2015
20	Area 12: Loose stones.	SE	02/03/2015
21	Area 12: Stone removal, general shot.	SE	25/02.2015
22	Area 12: Work in progress.	E	24/02.2015
23	Area 12: Work in progress.	SE	25/02.2015
24	Area 12: Eroded south-west side of path, detail.	SW	25/02.2015
25	Area 12: Path leading to the chapel ruins.	NE	25/02.2015
26	Area 12: Detail following stone removal.	SE	25/02.2015
27	Area 12: Detail of an old water bar.	SE	25/02.2015
28	Area 12: Deposit 12002.	S	05/03/2015
29	Area 12: Finds from 12002.	S	05/03/2015
30	Area 12: Post-excavation shot of 12002.	SE	05/03/2015