

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works
2008

Holyrood Park Disturbed Ground

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Site Inspection

January 2008

21 March 2008
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Holyrood Park: Disturbed Ground
<u>Project #</u>	HSCO-90131-2008-01
<u>NGR</u>	NT 2793 7306
<u>Project Description</u>	Site Inspection

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1 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was invited to inspect an area of disturbed ground caused by use of a 4-wheel drive vehicle on the area known as 'The Jew's Golf Course' on the northern slope of Arthur's Seat.

The area is located c 100m above Dunsapie Loch on the naturally terraced eastern slope, to the W of the informal public pathway to the summit. The vehicle had got bogged down in soft ground and had to be pulled out by another vehicle. The wheel ruts were inspected to see if there was any damage to the buried archaeology.

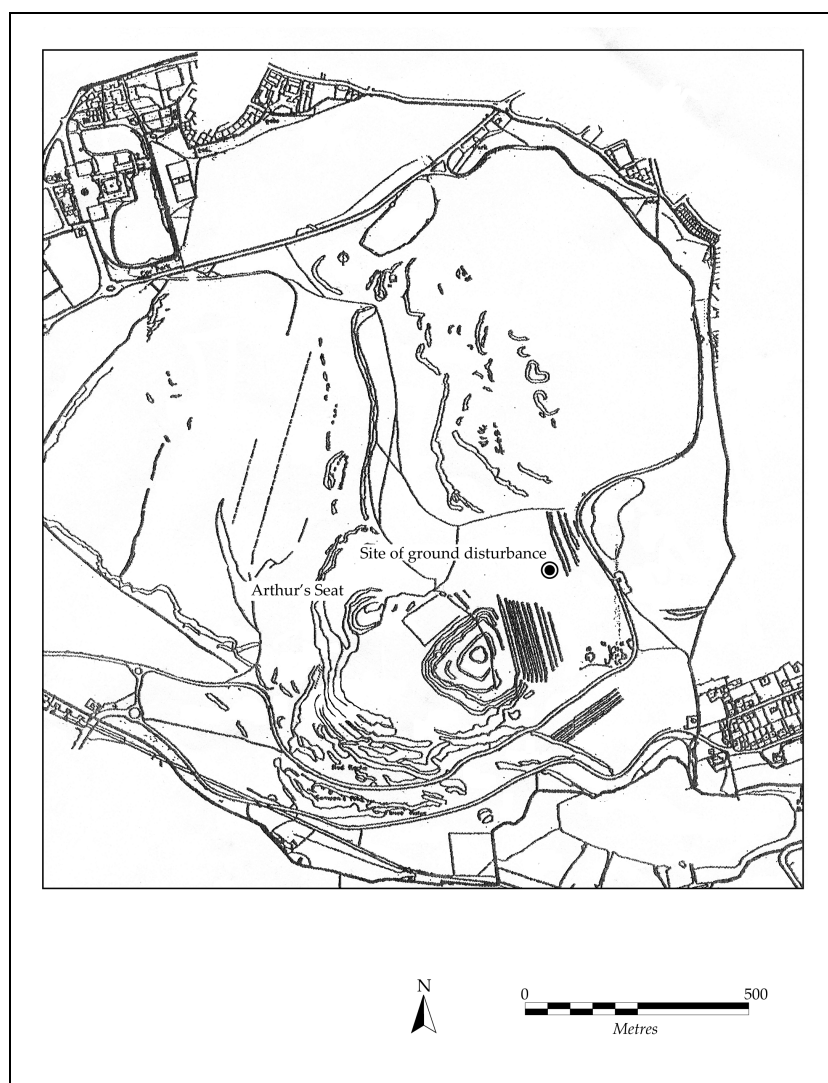


Figure 1 – Location of the disturbed ground

2 FIELDWORK

A site inspection occurred on 22 January 2008. The area of disturbance was inspected and photographed. The wheel ruts only cut into the upper soil profile, which comprised rough turf over dark humic silt. The maximum depth of the ruts was 300mm and although much of the grass was churned up, nothing of archaeological interest was noted in this short site inspection.

3 CONCLUSIONS

The general area of disturbed ground was c.10m x 5m and lay within a natural terrace aligned roughly NW / SE. The use of the more gradual slope and any generally level ground in particular, have high potential for settlement whether defensive or domestic. The natural approach to a defended summit is from the NE and the area of the disturbance (known as the Jews Golf Course) could easily been exploited as part of the extensive complex of prehistoric settlement. The area is a narrow defile and is not free draining. The soft ground is a result of the poor drainage and has created a deep humic layer towards the top of the natural profile. This deposit has obscured any obvious signs of occupation activity at least to the depth observed in the wheel ruts.

APPENDIX 1 : LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Frame	Description	Taken from	Date
1	General view	NW	22.1.08
2	General view	NW	22.1.08