

**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008**

**Holyrood Park:
Archaeological Monitoring,
February 2008**

**HS PIC Index number: 90131
Project code: HSCO-90131-2008-01**



**March 2008
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	Holyrood Park
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 271 739
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90131-2008-01

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SUMMARY: A watching brief was maintained during the removal of the Bowling Green and Tennis Court surfaces in Holyrood Park, just east of the enclosed grounds of the Palace of Holyroodhouse. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a short period of intermittent archaeological monitoring during the removal of the Bowling Green and Tennis Court surfaces in Holyrood Park. The bowling green and tennis courts were built in 1953. Having fallen into a poor state of repair the facility is no longer used but following the removal of the surface of the bowling green, the tarmac tennis court, the fencing surrounding the tennis court and part of the box hedge surrounding the bowling green the area will be landscaped and made use of by the public. The bowling green and tennis courts lie just to the E of Holyrood Palace, potentially built on top of the buried remains of buildings and gardens related to the Palace. Intermittent archaeological monitoring was necessary to determine the archaeological potential of the site and to identify and record any traces of gardens or buried structures revealed during the work. All the work was carried out using a mechanical excavator with a toothed ditching bucket. The work was carried out throughout February 2008 and the site was visited on 04/02/08, 05/02/08, 08/02/08, 11/02/08 and 22/02/08.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

Work commenced at the S end of the site with the removal of the bowling green turf **011**, sand **012** and the tarmac path **003** surrounding the bowling green. This revealed loose grey ash deposit **013** across the site. The ash was left in situ and it will form the base of the landscaping to provide good drainage across the site.

Work continued at the N end of the site with the removal of the tarmac tennis court surface **014**. This was bedded directly on top of loose grey ash **013**. However at the N end of the site **013** was only around 200mm thick and in a few patches the ash was removed along with the tarmac to reveal a mixed deposit of brown clay **015**,

charcoal, crushed sandstone and oyster shell. Because **015** was only revealed in patches the full extent and character of the deposit is unknown.

Following the removal of the bowling green and tennis court surfaces, ash **013** was levelled and new soil was imported to landscape the site.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

All of the deposits revealed during this work relate to the construction, use and deterioration of the bowling green and tennis courts with the exception of mixed clay **015** at the N end of the site. It is likely that when the bowling green and tennis courts were built the ground was levelled, probably destroying some of the buried archaeology resulting in mixed deposit **015**. The loose ash deposit **013**, probably power station clink, was then laid directly on top of levelled ground to provide good drainage. It is probable that some evidence of structures and gardens does survive under or within deposit **015** such as foundations, or foundation cuts, garden boundaries and tree holes.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
001	Box hedge at the S end of the site.
002	Wire fence at the N end of the site.
003	Tarmac path surrounding the bowling green.
004	Outer wooden edging of the bowling green.
005	Inner wooden edging of the bowling green.
006	Brown sandy earth fill between 004 and 005.
007	Irrigation gutter around the bowling green on the inside of 004.
008	Concrete kerb forming inner edge of 007.
009	Green felt lining of 007.
010	Green hose pipe lying over 009.
011	Turf of bowling green.
012	Orange/brown sharp sand under 011.
013	Loose grey ash under 012 and 014.
014	Tarmac tennis court surface.
015	Mixed deposit of brown clay, charcoal, crushed sandstone and oyster shell, below 013 at the N end of the site.
016	Iron railing behind hedge 001.

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Location drawing	1:400

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
3426	General shot looking along footpath 003.	NW	05/02/08
3427	General shot of bowling green.	NE	05/02/08
3428	General shot of bowling green.	E	05/02/08
3429	General shot of bowling green and tennis court.	SE	05/02/08
3430	Footpath 003 and bowling green surround 004-008.	E	05/02/08
3431	Footpath 003 and bowling green surround 004-010.	S	05/02/08

#	Description	From	Date
3436	Grey ash 013 and sand 012.	E	05/02/08
3439	Footpath 003 and bowling green surround 004-010.	SW	05/02/08
3440	Footpath 003 and bowling green surround 004-008.	E	05/02/08
3441	SW corner of the bowling green showing turf 011, sand 012 and ash 013.	E	05/02/08
3443	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	NW	05/02/08
3444	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	N	05/02/08
3447	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	S	05/02/08
3450	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	S	05/02/08
3453	General shot of bowling green showing turf 011, sand and ash 012 and 013.	SE	05/02/08
3455	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	N	05/02/08
3456	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	SW	05/02/08
3492	General shot of the tennis court tarmac 014.	W	08/02/08
3495	General shot of bowling green showing ash 013.	N	08/02/08
3496	General shot of bowling green showing sand and ash 012 and 013.	NW	08/02/08
3498	General shot of tennis court showing ash 013.	SE	08/02/08
3499	General shot of tennis court showing ash 013.	SE	08/02/08
3502	Shot showing block of pink sandstone found in ash 013.	SE	08/02/08
3506	General shot of tennis court showing ash 013.	S	08/02/08
3507	Patch of mixed surface 015 under 013.	S	08/02/08
3508	Patch of mixed surface 015 under 013.	W	08/02/08
0007	General shot of the site showing landscaping and new material brought in.	N	22/02/08
0008	General shot of the site showing landscaping and new material brought in.	N	22/02/08

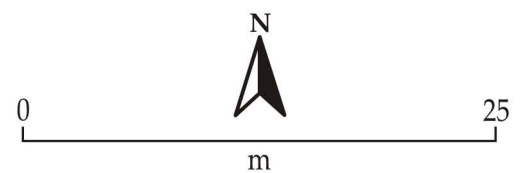
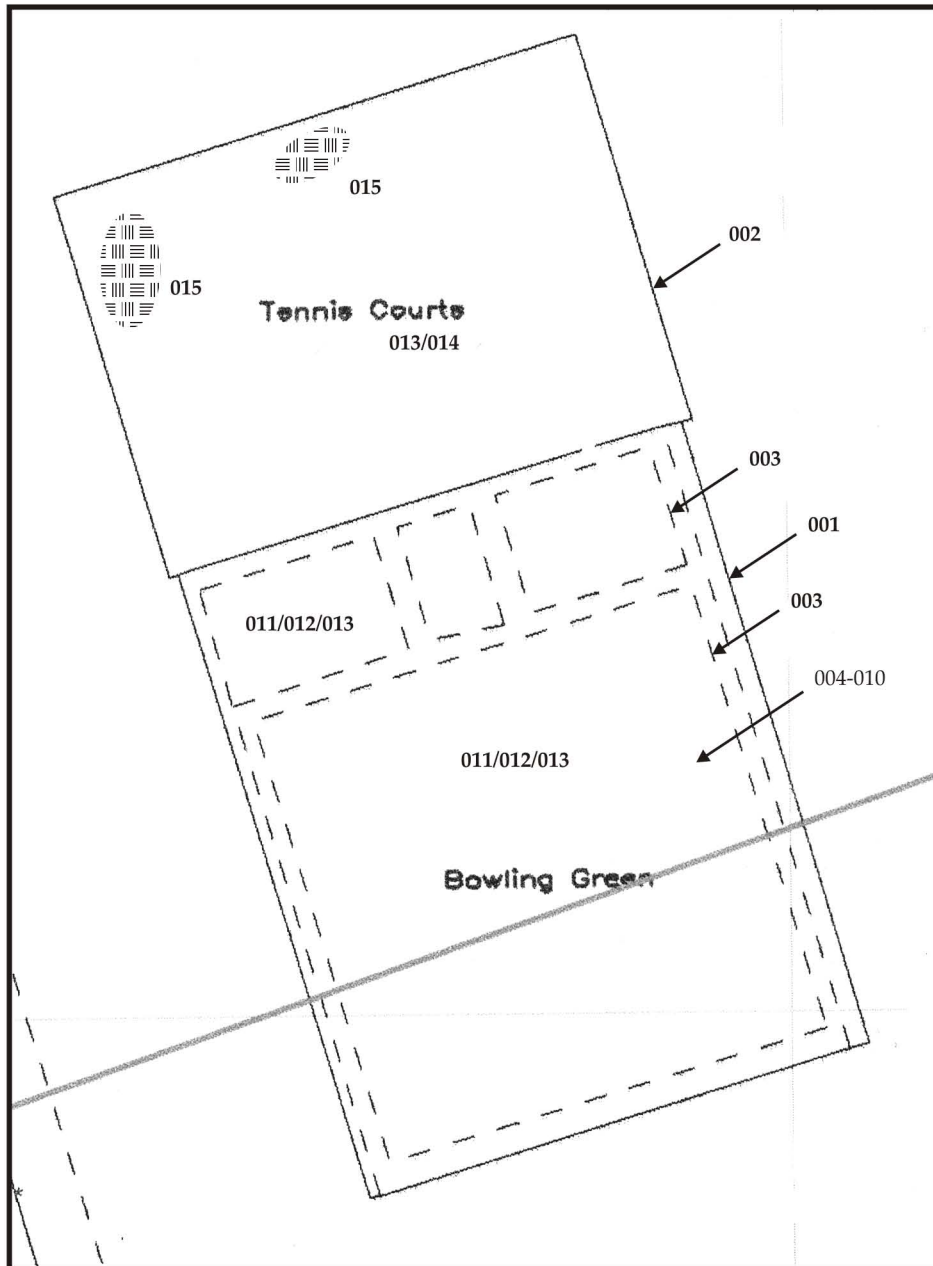
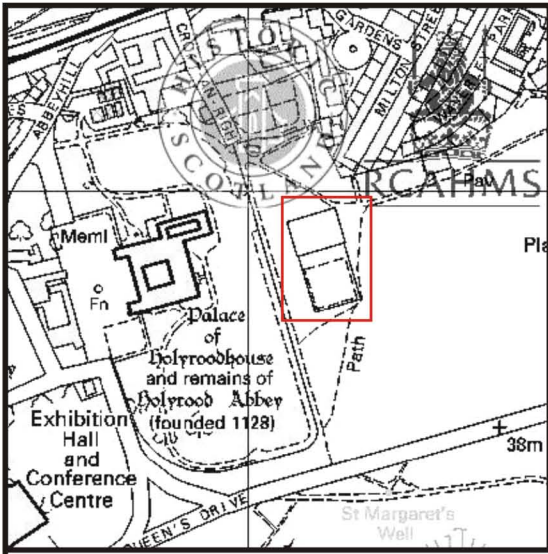


Fig. 1 : Plan (1:400) showing location of excavation