

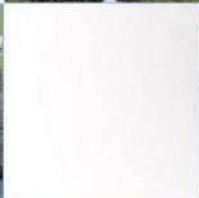
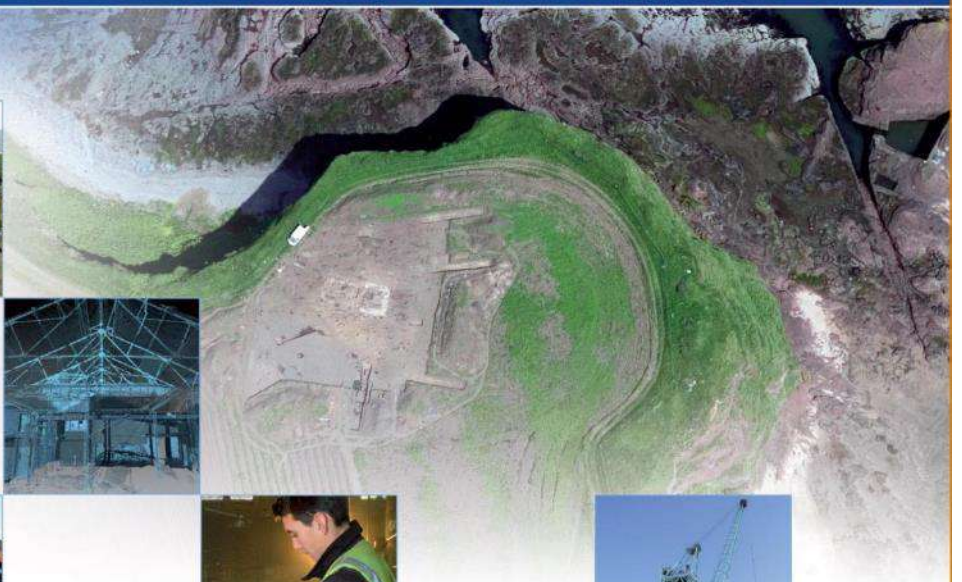
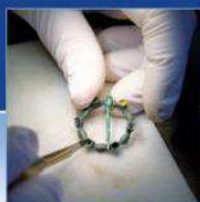
Holyrood Park Well Survey, West of Dunsapie (PIC224): Historic Environment Scotland Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract:

Data Structure Report

AOC Project No. 26813-5

November 2023

Oasis ID: aocarcha1-521053



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

Holyrood Park Well Survey, West of Dunsapie (PIC224)

Historic Environment Scotland: Minor Archaeological Services Call-off

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Cultural Resources Team Historic Environment Scotland, John Sinclair House 16 Bernard Terrace Edinburgh EH8 9NX
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 28147 72930
AOC Project No (Call-off ID):	26813-5 (26813-15 for archive)
Property In Care ID:	PIC224
Designation ID(s):	SM13032
Scheduled Monument Consent:	N/A
OASIS Identifier:	aocarcha1-521053
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Date of Fieldwork:	2 nd November 2023
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Summary

A survey was required on the site of a potential well to the west of Dunsapie Hillfort. The investigative works were undertaken by AOC Archaeology and students from the University of Edinburgh.

Vegetation clearance around the remains of the well uncovered a rectangular in plan, single course of roughly faced wall, bound by poured concrete. Stretching 1.80 meters in width and 1.60 meters in length. The most northerly end of the surviving remains was unfortunately not identified waterlogging from a nearby spring.

Scrutiny of the surviving elements of the feature suggests that the feature represents the location of a well or sheep dip, constructed over a natural spring, in the post-medieval period.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Data Structure Report (DSR) has been prepared by AOC Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Historic Environment Scotland following a survey to investigate the extent and condition of a well site, south of Dunsapie (National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 28147 72930– Figure 1). Holyrood Park is a Property in Care (PIC224) in the ownership of Historic Environment Scotland, and a Scheduled Monument (SM13032 - see Figure 2). The survey took place in tandem with works on Pipers walk Path (project: 26813-15).
- 1.2 The survey was undertaken under the terms of the Historic Environment Scotland Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract along with the CiFA 'Code of Conduct' and the 'Scottish National Planning Framework' (2023).

2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site lies within the Scheduled Monument of Holyrood Park (SM13032). The scheduling document describes Holyrood Park as:

“Holyrood Park contains a number of highly significant archaeological sites. The oldest visible today comprise the remains of four prehistoric or early historic forts, situated on Salisbury Crags, Samson's Ribs, Arthur's Seat and Dunsapie Crag. A smaller enclosed settlement lies on the eastern flank of Dunsapie Crag (between Dunsapie fort and the park wall), and another lies a short distance to the SW of Windy Gowl. By far the most extensive remains in the park are cultivation terraces and furlongs of rig-and-furrow cultivation, some overlain by the 16th-century park wall. These are the best cultivation remains in the Lothians. The most striking cultivation terraces lie on the E flank of Arthur's Seat, where a flight of 15 terraces resembles a staircase climbing the hillside. These may have been used into the early medieval period. They are accompanied by a furlong of rig-and-furrow that encroaches on the lower terraces, while the banks of two later enclosures overlie the terraces on the NW.

The precinct of Holyrood Abbey, an important Augustinian monastery founded by King David I in 1128, extends into the park from the palace gardens to the W. Archaeological evaluation in the N corner of the park has revealed buried remains of a possible outer precinct boundary, enclosing a group of postholes and pits that are probably the foundations of medieval timber buildings. Historical sources indicate that other medieval structures included a dam and sluice to control the drainage of Hunter's Bog and a mill to grind the grain in the same area. St Anthony's Chapel, a picturesque ruin perched on the crag above St Margaret's Loch, is of late medieval date. To the SW of the chapel are the remnants of the priest's

*accommodation, partly built into the rock-face. Other religious features in the park include seven holy wells, the most visible today being St Anthony's Well, on the slope leading up to the chapel. The buried remains of likely 16th- and 17th-century boundary walls, garden features and demolition deposits, identified in archaeological evaluation E of the palace, are probably associated with St Anne's Yards, a township of tenements. The park contains several major quarries dating from the 16th century onwards, the earliest probably those along Salisbury Crags and on the adjacent slope N of Camstone Quarry. Other industrial features include part of the 'Innocent Railway' (now a public footpath and cycleway) opened in 1831 to carry coal from Dalkeith into the city. It incorporates one of the earliest surviving railway tunnels at its NW end. Landscape features of the mid-19th century include the Queen's Drive (first called the Victoria Road), St Margaret's Loch and Dunsapie Loch. The most recent archaeological remains are associated with the use of Hunter's Bog as a military range from the 1830s to the 1950s. * (HES SM13032).*

2.2 A Desk Based Assessment compiled by HES ahead of the surveys noted:

A survey of the cultural heritage in Holyrood Park was undertaken in 1996 by the Centre for Field Archaeology (CFA) which recorded all known archaeological sites and find spots within the park boundary. The park was surveyed by RCAHMS in 1998; a lidar survey was completed in March 2017. No new features have been identified from the lidar data in the vicinity of the proposed works.

There have been numerous small scale archaeological interventions within the park in recent years. This has largely taken the form of archaeological monitoring alongside erosion and path repair works, and drainage works.

2.3 The well subject to the survey, is visible on the 2023 Ordinance Survey (Plate 1). However, it is absent from older Ordinance Survey maps such as the 1940s-1970s National Grid Map (Plate 2). The 1940s-1970s map does indicate the presence of a nearby delf well to the west of the most recent archaeological works, indicating the presence of other natural springs emerging from the southern slopes of Holyrood Park.



Plate 1: OS Maps Leisure, 2023, (1:50,000/1:25,000), reproduced from National Library of Scotland.

- 2.4 The well sits below Dunsapie hillfort, to the south. To the immediate northwest and southeast is an earthwork curvilinear, prehistoric in period, which the well sits in the middle off (Canmore ID 157234). In this regard it appears the site interacts with older remains associated with the prehistoric hillfort and land use of the park.

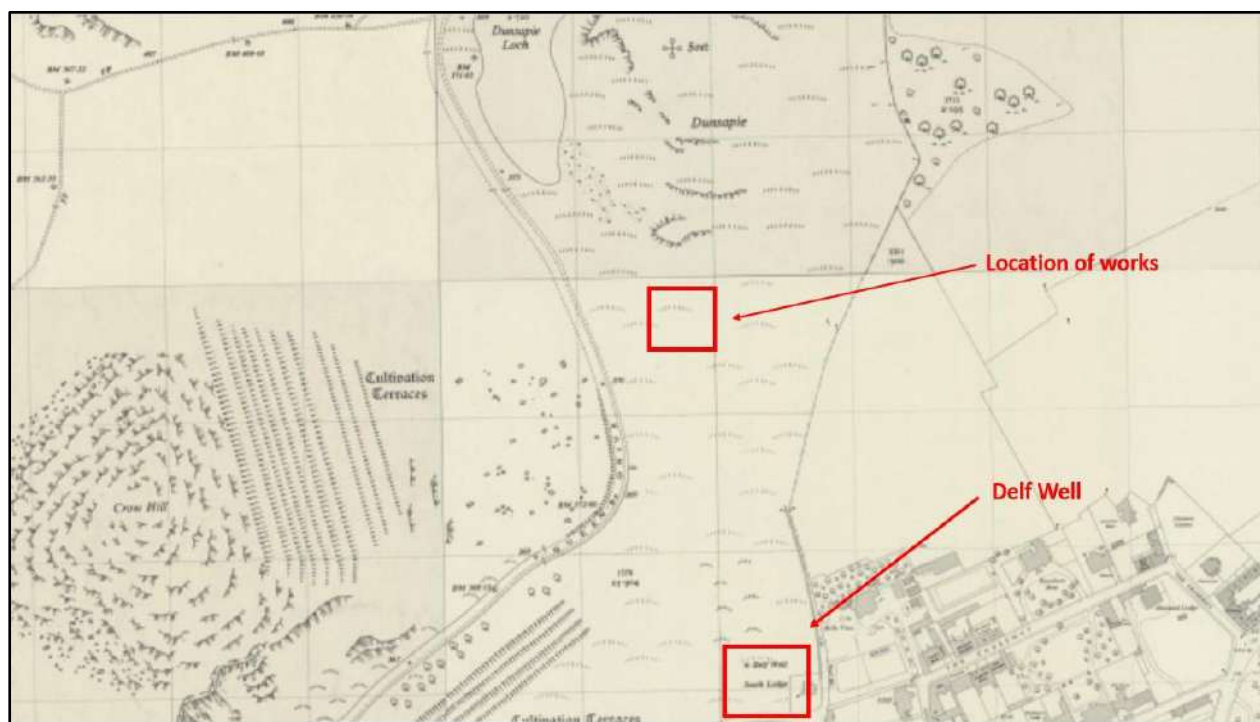


Plate 2: OS National Grid Map, 1940s-1970s, reproduced from National Library of Scotland.

- 2.5 South of the well is a system of cultivated terraces running east to west speculated to be medieval in period, they exclude the boggy area surrounding the well site (Canmore ID 52102). To the north of the well site is a cultivation terrace of rig and furrow running north to south possibly dating to the medieval or post-medieval period, this too excludes the well site (Canmore ID 157282).

3 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the programme of archaeological works was:
- To conduct an appropriate examination of archaeological remains, without the use of extensive excavation, to characterise their extent and condition.
 - To map and record those remains by way of survey for posterity in the archaeological record.

4 METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The survey took place according to the terms set out in the terms of the Historic Environment Scotland Minor Archaeological Services Call-off Contract. All works were carried out under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist, in order to identify the nature and extent of any archaeology exposed. All works were carried out as per AOC Archaeology's Standard Operating Procedures.

- 4.2 A student from the University of Edinburgh, under the supervision of an experienced archaeologist cut back vegetation obscuring the archaeological remains. They then assisted in the drawing, recording and survey of the uncovered remains, so that they may be preserved for posterity by record.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The works were carried out on the 2nd of November. Conditions were poor, during a yellow weather warning, with high winds and heavy rain. The primary record evidence is presented as a series of appendices:

- Appendix 1: Photograph Register
- Appendix 2: Context Register
- Appendix 3: *OASIS Summary*

- 5.2 The survey area was covered by thick vegetation and waterlogging which sat atop of topsoil (1001). The topsoil (1001) was a mid-brown, sandy silty, loam, with a friable compaction with inclusions of angular stones approximately 0.10mm x 0.20mm in scale. The topsoil was only removed in so far as was necessary to strip back surrounding vegetation to photograph the well.



Plate 3: View of well [1004] from Queens Drive, secured with fencing in amongst vegetation.

- 5.3 The structure of the well [1004] was exposed and comprised between one to two courses of mixed stonework, consisting of both angular and rounded stones, some of which were faced (Plate 4). The largest pieces of masonry measured 0.36 meters by 0.74 meters while the smaller components of the structure measured 0.15 meters by 0.10 meters. The structure was bonded with poured concrete and arranged in a rectangular shape, enclosing a waterlogged area.



Plate 4: View of [1004], rectangular structure, looking north

- 5.4 The well structure [1004] measured 1.80 meters in width, east to west, and 1.60m in length, north to south, though its western wall length was shorter at 1 meter in length. The northmost end of the feature could not be identified due to the presence of waterlogging, and unstable ground. The well structure appears to have undergone a phase of stone robbery with the visible northmost upstanding remains in abject condition. The southmost point of the feature survives to an elevation of 0.27 meters, while the northern end is potentially buried below topsoil (1001).



Plate 5: South facing section of structure [1004], looking north.

- 5.5 Given the depth and presence of water flow within the waterlogged area in the centre of the well structure, it is probable that it is fed by a nearby groundwater source. The well structure itself seems to function with the intention to retain this water flow, containing it to a depth of approximately 0.20 meters. The centre of the feature is backfilled with loose displaced stonework and modern 21st century refuse.



Plate 6: A student from Edinburgh University recording structure [1004], looking south.

6 DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Scrutiny of the surviving elements of well structure [1004] suggests that it functioned to retain water from a nearby groundwater source. The presence of poured concrete as a bonding agent implies that the structure is post-medieval in construction. The lack of uniformity in the stone used to build the feature suggests that it was built for functionality and from readily available materials. It seems likely structure [1004] was indeed a well or perhaps a cistern for livestock in the 20th century.
- 6.2 The location of this well structure outside the areas of medieval and post-medieval agricultural cultivation indicates that it sits in the midst of boggy un-cultivable ground. From mapping evidence, the well structure is not included in the 1940s-1970s map, however this map notes the presence of another well in the vicinity. As there is no reason the map would note the location of one and not of the other, this may suggest the well structure [1004] is late 20th century in construction, built after the 1940s-1970s mapping.

- 6.3 To further investigate the well structure, excavation would be required to properly establish the northmost extent of the feature. However, from what has been investigated so far, well structure [1004] is a later addition to Holyrood Park, adding to our growing understanding of late 20th century land use. The location of the groundwater source has clearly played a pivotal role in shaping the material land use of the park throughout antiquity, as can be seen from how it interacts with prehistoric embankments and the medieval to post-medieval cultivation terraces. It is therefore an integral part of the scheduled landscape.

7 REFERENCES

Canmore, ID 157234, [Edinburgh, Holyrood Park, Dunsapie | Canmore](#), accessed 27/11/2023.

Canmore, ID 157282, [Edinburgh, Holyrood Park, Arthur's Seat | Canmore](#), accessed 27/11/2023.

Canmore, ID 52102, [Edinburgh, Holyrood Park, Dunsapie | Canmore](#), accessed 27/11/2023.

HES 2023 PIC 224 - Holyrood Park Path Erosion Repairs Desk Based Assessment, Cultural Resource Team Assessment, Unpublished report for HES

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Ordnance Survey National Grid Map, 1940s-1970s, reproduced from National Library of Scotland, <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/side-by-side/>, accessed 27/11/2023.

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Scottish National Planning Framework (2023)

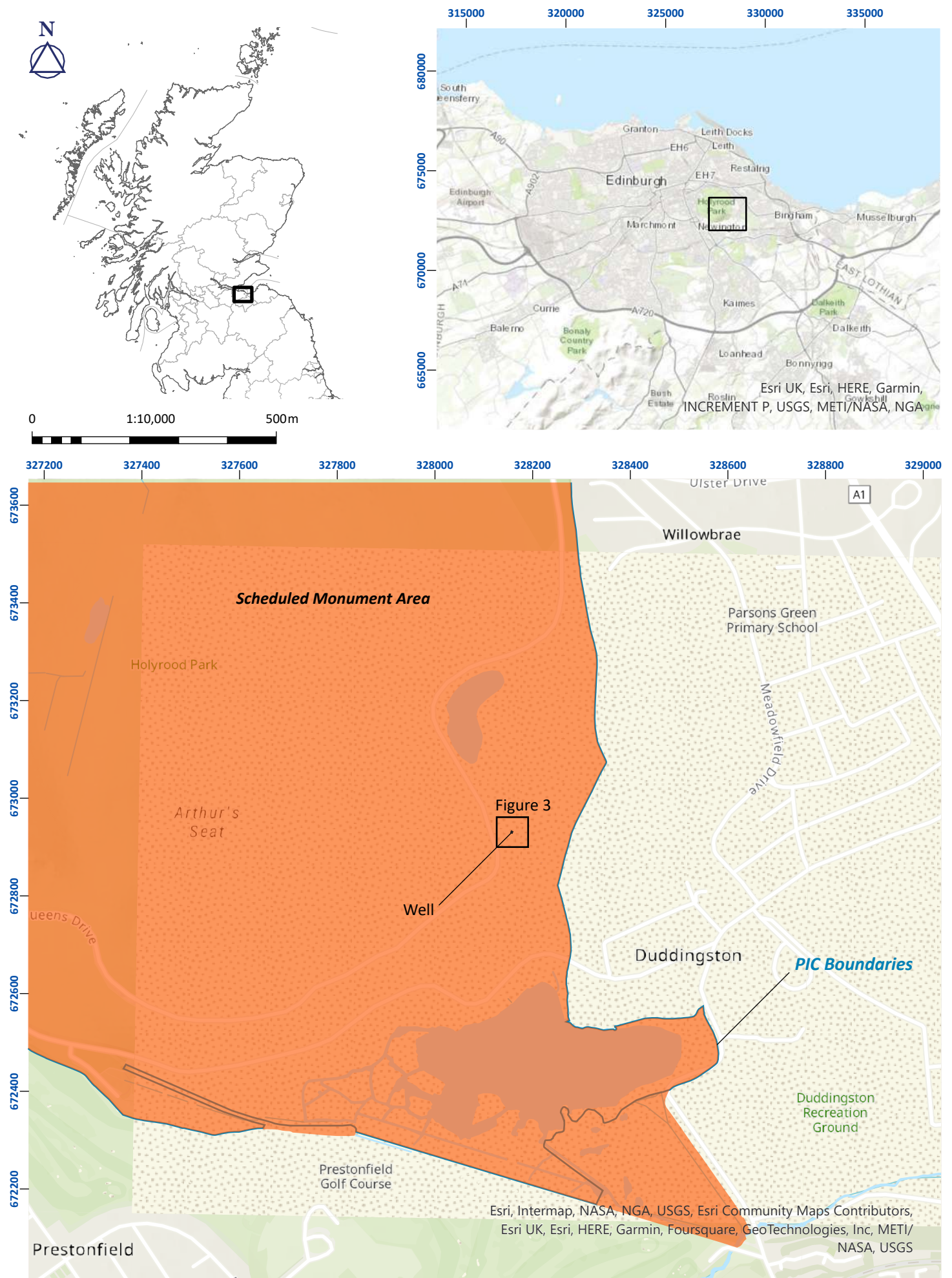


Figure 1: Location of Well

01/26813-5/DSR/01/02



Figure 2: Extents of the Holyrood Park Scheduled area (PIC224)

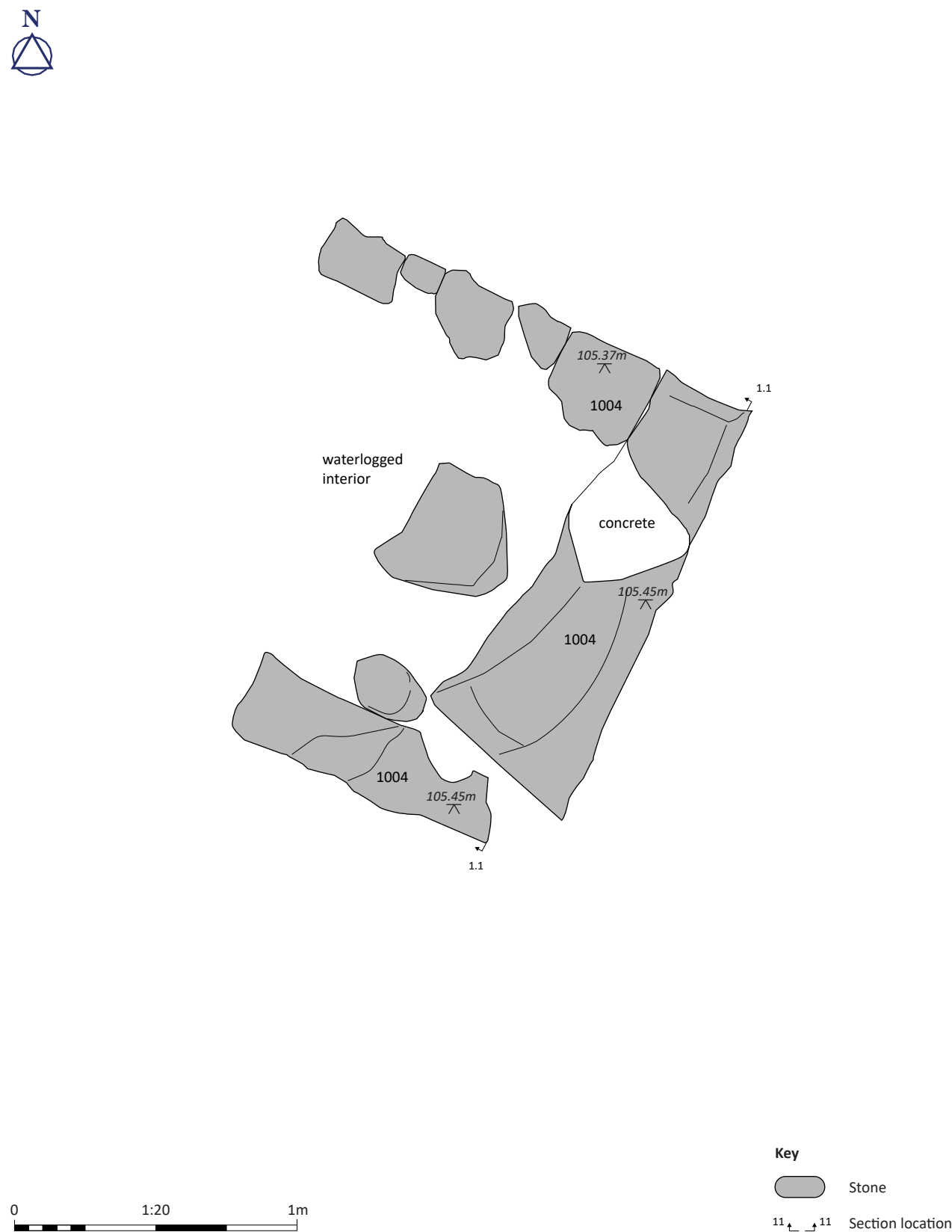


Figure 3: Plan of structure [1004]

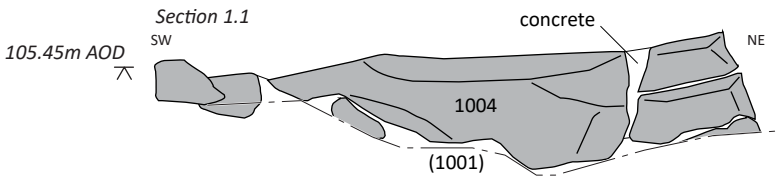


Figure 4: South-East facing section of structure [1004]

Holyrood Park, Well Survey, West of Dunsapie (PIC224)

Historic Environment Scotland: Minor Archaeological Services Call-off: Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix 1: Photographic Register

Photo No.	File No.	Description	Facing	Date
1	IMG_0299	Cistern at base of Dunsapie	S	01/11/2023
2	IMG_0300	Cistern with fencing	NE	01/11/2023
3	IMG_0301	Landscape from Dunsapie to the Lammermuirs	S	01/11/2023
4	IMG_0302	Cistern [1004], East Facing Section	W	02/11/2023
5	IMG_0303	Cistern [1004], East Facing Section	W	02/11/2023
6	IMG_0304	Cistern [1004], East Facing Section	W	02/11/2023
7	IMG_0305	Cistern [1004], East Facing Section	W	02/11/2023
8	IMG_0306	Cistern, [1004], South Facing Section	N	02/11/2023
9	IMG_0307	Cistern, [1004], South Facing Section	N	02/11/2023
10	IMG_0308	Cistern, [1004], South Facing Section	N	02/11/2023
11	IMG_0309	Cistern, [1004], South Facing Section	N	02/11/2023
12	IMG_0310	Cistern, [1004], South Facing Section	N	02/11/2023
13	IMG_0311	Cistern [1004], Oblique	W	02/11/2023
14	IMG_0312	Working Shot, Cistern [1004]	W	02/11/2023
15	IMG_0313	Working Shot, Luke Stobo, Cistern [1004]	S	02/11/2023
16	IMG_0314	Working Shot, Luke Stobo, Cistern [1004]	S	02/11/2023
17	IMG_0315	Working Shot, Luke Stobo, Cistern [1004]	S	02/11/2023

Appendix 2: Context Register

Context No.	Description	Interpretation
(1001)	Topsoil: mid-brown, sandy silty, loam, friable. Inclusions of 0.10mm x 0.20mm stones.	Topsoil, overgrown with vegetation and waterlogged
[1004]	Structure: comprised of 1 to 2 courses of mixed stone; angular, rounded and faced, bounded by poured concrete. The structure is rectangular in plan surviving well in the south, but deteriorating on its east and western sides, its northern extent could not be identified. The structure is 1.80m in width and 1.60m in length, though the western side is only 1m in length. The structure has an elevation of 0.27m at its southern end, running under a dense waterlogged thicket to the north under (1001).	Excavation was not permitted beyond vegetation clearance, and subsequent waterlogging and unstable ground made establishing the northern extent difficult under current restraints. The rectangular shape of the feature, and the construction materials all point to the interpretation the [1004] is a structure. Likely associated with the waterlogged area as a well built atop a groundwater source.

Appendix 3: OASIS Summary

OASIS Summary for aocarcha1-521053	
OASIS ID (UID)	aocarcha1-521053
Project Name	Building Survey at Well site, west of Dunsapie
Sitename	Well site, west of Dunsapie
Sitecode	26813-5
Activity type	Building Survey
Reason For Investigation	Heritage management
Organisation Responsible for work	AOC Archaeology Group
Project Dates	01-Nov-2023 - 02-Nov-2023
Location	Well site, west of Dunsapie
	NGR : NT 28147 72930
	LL : 55.944019618530604, -3.151993238311118
	12 Fig : 328147,672930
Administrative Areas	Parish : City Parish of Edinburgh
	Council : City of Edinburgh
	Country : Scotland
Project Methodology	A survey was required on the site of a potential well to the west of Dunsapie Hillfort. The investigative works were undertaken by AOC Archaeology and students from the University of Edinburgh.
Project Results	Vegetation clearance around the remains of the well uncovered a rectangular in plan, single course of roughly faced wall, bound by poured concrete. Stretching 1.80 meters in width and 1.60 meters in length. The most northern end of the surviving remains was unfortunately not identified due to limited excavation authorisation and waterlogging from a nearby spring.
	Scrutiny of the surviving elements of the feature suggests that the site represents the location of a well or sheep dip, constructed over a natural spring, in the post-medieval period.
Keywords	HOLY WELL - 21st Century - Monument Type Thesaurus (Scotland)
Funder	Historic Environment Scotland (from Oct 2015)

Person Responsible for work	Nuala C. Marshall
Archives	TBC
DES description	N/A
NGR	NT 28147 72930
Previous Work	No
Future Work	No
Caption(s) for illustrations	N/A



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