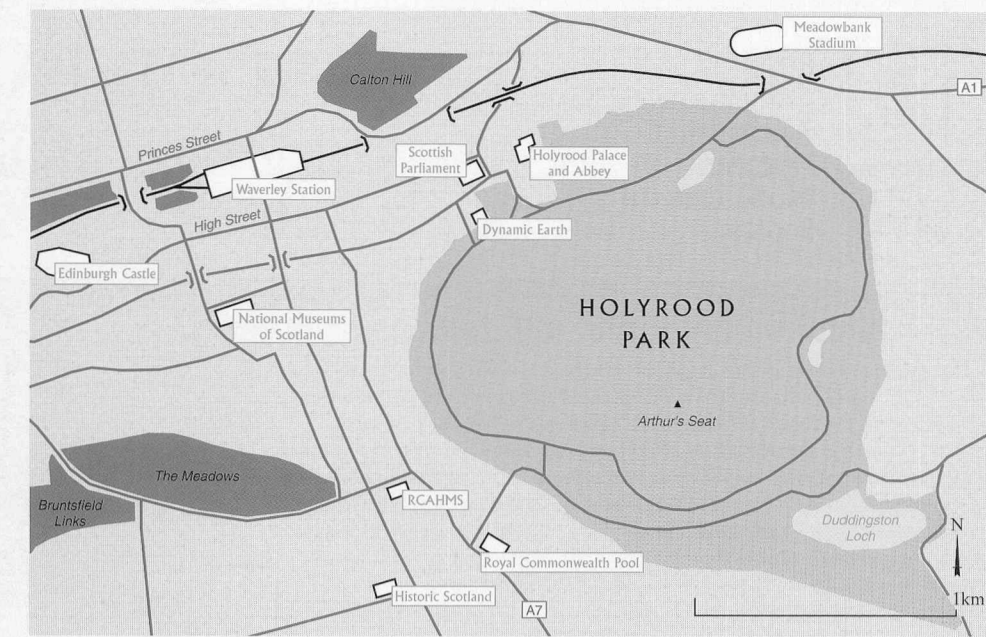


HISTORIC SCOTLAND



Aerial view of the cultivation terraces and areas of rig-and-furrow overlooking Duddingston and Dunsapie Lochs. The ramparts of the forts on Arthur's Seat and Dunsapie Crag are visible as faint horizontal scars.



Further information about the sites illustrated in this broadsheet is available from the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) at the address given below. The NMRS is open Monday to Thursday 9.30 - 16.30 and Friday 9.30 - 16.00.

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (National Monuments Record of Scotland)
John Sinclair House
16 Bernard Terrace
Edinburgh EH8 9NX

Tel: 0131-662 1456 Fax: 0131-662 1477
Web Site: www.rcahms.gov.uk
Email: postmaster@rcahms.gov.uk

Further Reading

Edinburgh, a landscape fashioned by geology, Scottish Natural Heritage and British Geological Survey (1993).
Arthur's Seat and Holyrood Park: a visitor's guide, C R Wickham-Jones (1996).

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Most of the artefacts illustrated in this broadsheet are on display in the National Museums of Scotland (NMS). The NMS is open Monday to Saturday 10.00 - 17.00, Tuesday 10.00 - 20.00 and Sunday 12.00 - 17.00. There is an admission charge (admission is free on Tuesday after 16.30).

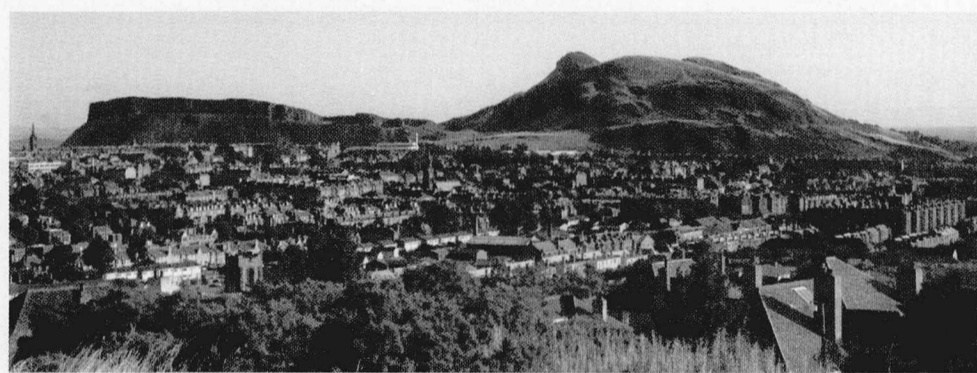
National Museums of Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF

Tel: 0131-225 7534 Fax: 0131-220 4819
Web Site: www.nms.ac.uk

Holyrood Park is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and is in the care of Historic Scotland. Visitors to the park are free to roam, but stout footwear is recommended as some of the paths are steep and can be especially slippery in wet weather.

Historic Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh EH9 1SH

Tel: 0131-668 8600 Fax: 0131-668 8822
Web Site: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crag dominate the Edinburgh skyline.



Aerial view along Salisbury Crag. The rampart of the fort and a field-bank run from the cliff-edge.



An Early Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC) Pygmy Vessel found near Samson's Ribs.

Neolithic flint scraper found on the Long Row below Arthur's Seat.

Late Bronze Age (c.750 BC) swords and socketed axes found during the construction of the Queen's Drive in 1846.

HOLYROOD PARK

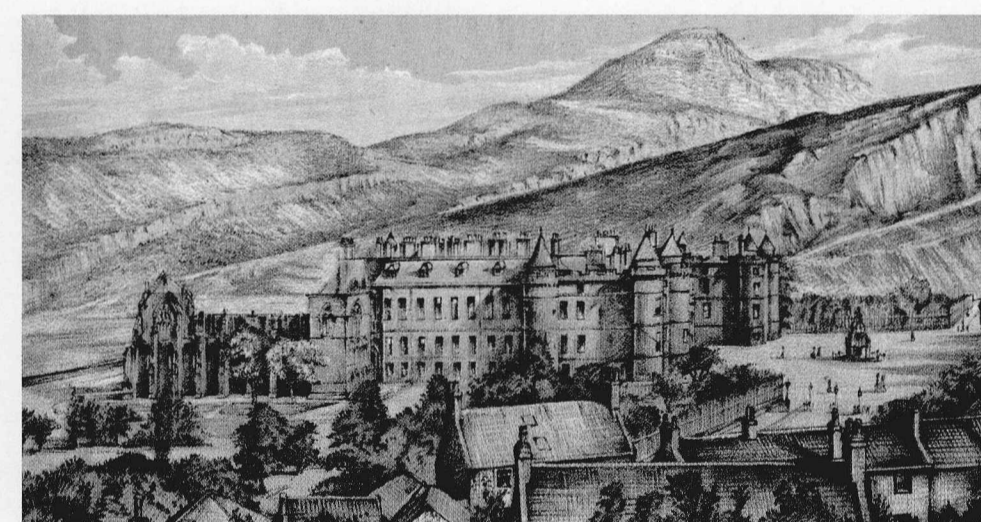
Holyrood Park lies at the heart of Edinburgh, and Arthur's Seat, an extinct volcano at its centre, dominates the city skyline. A place renowned for its natural history, as well as its historical associations, the park is open for the public to enjoy all year round, a refuge from the bustle of city life, where visitors can come from near-and-far to marvel at the panoramic views across the city to Fife and the Lothians. But the park has much more to offer, for here, there are the remains of earlier landscapes stretching back for over two thousand years - from 20th century rifle ranges and 18th and 19th century quarries, to furlongs of medieval rig and cultivation terraces and the walls of prehistoric forts and settlements.

The earliest evidence for man's presence in the park comes not from archaeological monuments but from the discovery of a number of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint and stone tools, indicating that the area was exploited from at least as early as the 5th millennium BC. But the most spectacular finds date to the Late Bronze Age (1000-750 BC) and comprise a collection of bronze objects that had been ritually deposited in Duddingston Loch, and which were discovered in 1778 when marl was being dredged to fertilise the surrounding fields. More recently, three Early Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC) flat axeheads were recovered from Dunsapie Crag, while the discovery of two

Cinerary Urns indicate that Bronze Age people also buried their dead in the park.

The oldest archaeological sites visible in the park date from later prehistory (500 BC-AD 500) and are represented by four fortifications, situated on Salisbury Crag, Samson's Ribs, Arthur's Seat and Dunsapie Crag. None has been closely dated, but a Roman intaglio of the 1st century BC has been found in the fort above Samson's Ribs; it was presumably lost during the Roman period. The large forts on Arthur's Seat and Salisbury Crag, 8.4 hectares and 9.4 hectares in extent, were evidently major centres in the later prehistoric period. Rather less imposing are the two small enclosed settlements, one on the eastern flank of Dunsapie Crag (between the fort and the park wall) and the other, a short distance to the south-west of Windy Gowl. With their scooped yards and platforms for timber round-houses, these settlements are typical of the later prehistoric farmsteads that once populated the Lothian Plain.

By far the most extensive remains within the park comprise cultivation terraces and furlongs of rig-and-furrow cultivation, some of which are overlain by the park wall. The most striking examples are to be found on the eastern slopes of Arthur's Seat, where a flight of fifteen terraces form a staircase marching up the hillside. 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 north-west. The best preserved plot of rig-and-



Late 19th century view of Holyrood Palace and Abbey with the park in the background.

furrow in the park, however, lies at Powderhouse Corner, but immediately outwith the boundary of the park, on the flatter ground occupied by Prestonfield Golf Club, there are swathes of broad curving rigs which are particularly striking when seen under low sunlight.

Documentary evidence suggests that the first major quarries in the park date to the mid-16th century, coinciding with construction work at Holyrood Palace and the erection of the park wall. The earliest workings are probably those along Salisbury Crag and on the adjacent slope to the north of Camstone Quarry. Stone was quarried for building, but the hard volcanic rock of the crags was especially favoured for street paving, and such was its reputation that quantities were sent as far afield as London. The scale of quarrying on Salisbury Crag reached a peak in the first decades of the 19th century and generated considerable public concern, so much so that legal action was brought against the Earl of Haddington, then Keeper of the Park to the Crown. Camstone Quarry, on the backslope of Salisbury Crag, was quarried for sandstone.

The quarries, however, are not the only archaeological remains within the park that are associated with mineral extraction. The 'Innocent Railway', now a public footpath and cycleway cutting through its southern margin, was opened in 1831 to carry coal from Dalkeith into the city. So-called because the carriages were drawn by horses rather than a steam

engine, the line incorporates one of the earliest surviving railway tunnels at its north-west end, and a fine example of a cast iron bridge across the Braid Burn to the south-east of Bawsinch Nature Reserve.

During the 19th century the role of the park shifted to recreation for the wider population. The Radical Road, its name derived from the politics of the unemployed weavers who built it in the 1820s, quickly became a popular walk. This and the schemes that followed - Queen's Drive, and St Margaret's and Dunsapie Lochs - have left an indelible imprint upon the landscape of the park as we know it today.

The most recent archaeological remains to be seen in the park are associated with the use of Hunter's Bog as a rifle range. In the 1830s, the castle garrison used the area for target practice, and by 1877 there were eight firing lines running roughly from north to south along the valley floor. By 1896, the direction of the ranges had switched to firing across the valley, and the targets were located at the foot of Arthur's Seat in the east. The range continued in use until the 1950s, when it was still used by the Territorial Army, but the targets and associated buildings were dismantled in 1961. Today, a narrow ledge at the south-east end of Hunter's Bog is all that survives of the targets, while the firing positions and locations of the buildings are marked by platforms and other minor features.



The whinstone quarries along Salisbury Crag from the south end of the Radical Road.



Camstone Quarry from the air. The site of the new Scottish Parliament is visible top right.



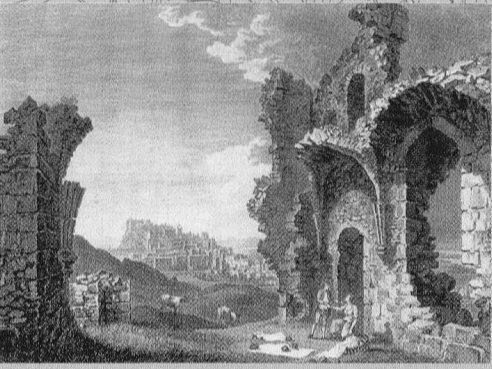
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

HOLYROOD PARK

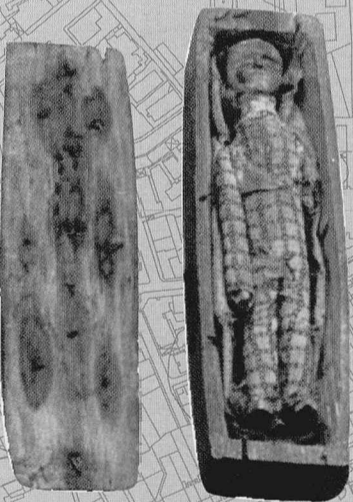
The Archaeology of the Royal Park

The earliest records of the land that now falls within Holyrood Park show that in the early 12th century it was divided between royal demesne and the estate of Treverlen (Duddingston), then in the hands of Uviet the White. With the foundation of Holyrood Abbey in 1128, David I granted demesne lands to the Augustinian canons, and Uviet ended the Abbey with part of Arthur's Seat. From the outset, Holyrood Abbey provided a royal guesthouse for the king and his court, and its popularity as a royal lodging increased during the 14th and 15th centuries. In the early 16th century James IV and James V developed the Palace and, in 1541, the latter enclosed the park with a stone wall. After the annexation of monastic lands in the late 16th century, Holyrood reverted to the Crown.

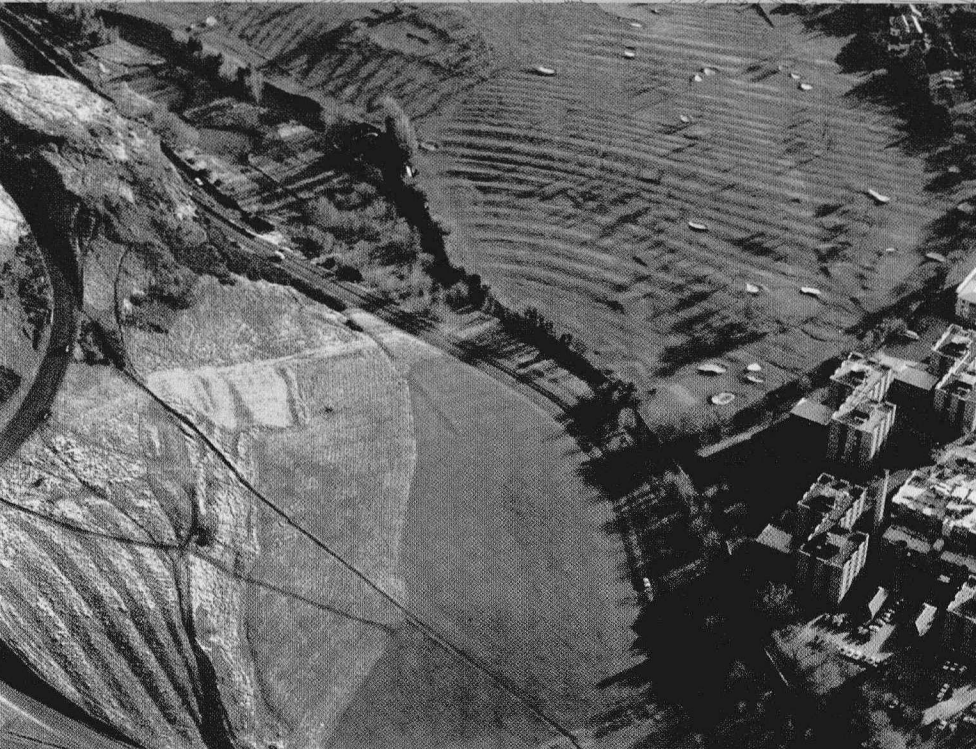
In 1646, while still Crown property, the park was transferred to the keepership of Sir James Hamilton of Prestonfield House, and remained in the care of his family and the Earls of Haddington for the next two hundred years. The increasing unpopularity of the quarrying of Salisbury Crags led to the Crown reassuming control in 1846, and during Victoria's reign Queen's Drive, Dunsapie Loch and St Margaret's Loch were built. Further areas have been added to the park since 1846, in particular the grounds to the east of the Palace and Abbey (the Parade Ground), acquired in the late 19th century. The present boundary was completed in 1926 with the gift of the ground to the east of Duddingston Loch.



The ruins of St Anthony's Chapel lie on a spur overlooking the terraced playing fields of the Parade Ground. The date of its foundation is unknown, but it is documented in the early 15th century, and had fallen out of use by 1581.



One of the seventeen miniature coffins found in 1836 in a recess in the rock below the summit of Arthur's Seat. Speculation surrounds their purpose. The most favoured explanation involves black magic, but they might equally have been buried as tokens for the seventeen victims of Burke and Hare.



Rig-and-furrow cultivation at Powderhouse Corner and on Prestonfield Golf Course.



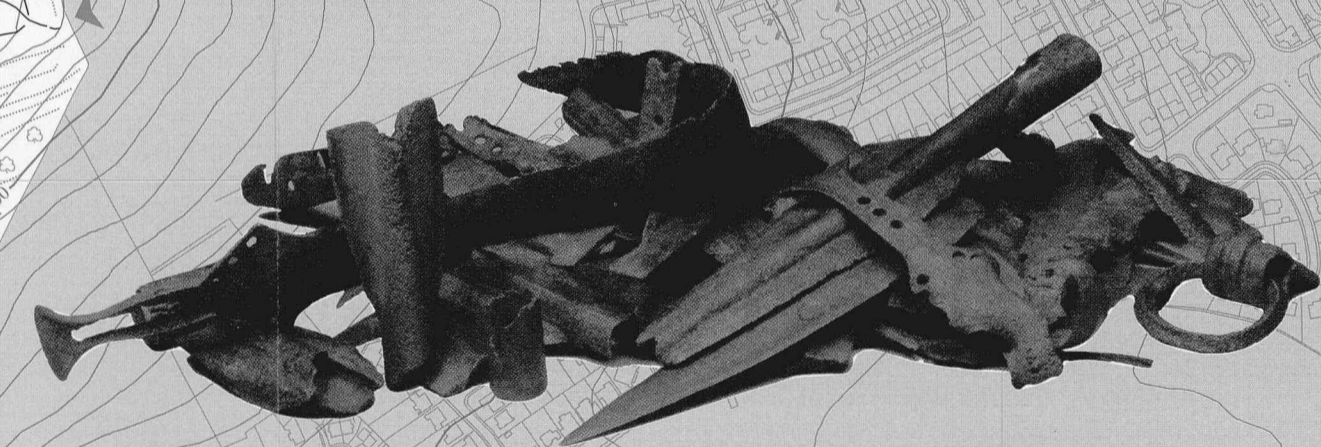
A fine intaglio from a Roman finger-ring found in the fort above Samson's Ribs. It shows the head of Alexander the Great and dates to the 1st century BC, but was presumably lost in the 1st or 2nd century AD.



Arthur's Seat and Crow Hill from the air.



Three Early Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC) flat axeheads from Dunsapie Crag. Each bears traces of herring-bone decoration.



Late Bronze Age (1000-750 BC) metal objects from Duddingston Loch.

LEGEND

General Features	— Road
-50- Index contour (50m interval)	--- Path
Contour (5m interval)	■ Roofed building (within park)
238 Spot height (m)	■ Woodland
Rock outcrop	■ Gorse
Loch/pond	P Car park
Burn	I Information board
Drain	▲ Pedestrian access point
Archaeological Features	— Cultivation terrace
Fort/settlement wall	— Furrow
Fort/settlement wall (line of)	--- Trackway
Structures	⊞ Quarry
Rifle range feature	⊞ Spoil
Field-bank and enclosure	

Scale 1:5500

100 200 300 400 500m

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