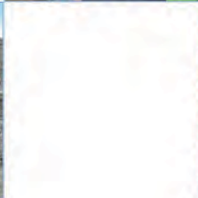
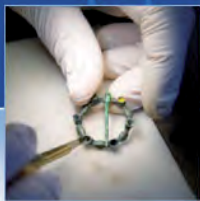


James Braidwood Statue, Parliament Square: Watching Brief

AOC Project Number 21099
July 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

On Behalf of:	Ironside Farrer Ltd 111 McDonald Road Edinburgh EH7 4NW
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 1096 7094
AOC Project No:	21099
Prepared by:	Alan Duffy
Illustration by:	Graeme Carruthers
Date of Monitoring Visit:	June 2008
Date of Report:	June 2008

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site location plan

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief carried out during ground breaking works associated with preparation of the site (and immediate area) for the erection of a memorial statue to James Braidwood (centred on NGR: NT 2578 7358), identified a mortar bonded sandstone wall.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Ironside Farrar Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the erection of a memorial statue to James Braidwood in Parliament Square, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 2578 7358). The work was undertaken in response to a planning condition set by City of Edinburgh Council.
- 2.2 The City of Edinburgh Council is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. John Lawson, of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The work was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a), and carried out in order to prevent the destruction of previously unknown archaeological remains prior to their recording.
- 2.3 This *Written Scheme of Investigation* details how the requirements of the project will be met. The first part is site specific while the Appendices detail AOC Archaeology Group's operating procedures and standards.
- 2.4 The site lies to the immediate east of St Giles Cathedral in an area currently being used as a car park.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The works are to occur directly due east of St. Giles Cathedral within Parliament Square. The area marked for the new statue lies a few metres east of St Giles cathedral, an A-Listed building, (NMRS NT27SE 204) and immediately north of ½ Parliament Square, 'Royal Exchequer' building, also A-Listed, (NMRS NT27SE 1193).
- 3.2 Excavations on the Royal Mile in recent years by AOC have led to the discovery of walls and foundations relating to the medieval past of Edinburgh and buildings such as the 'Tolbooth' (AOC 2006) whilst watching brief works in Parliament Square uncovered human remains (AOC 2007). It was considered possible that similar remains may have survived within the area of ground preparation for the statue.

4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to record any archaeological remains unearthed by the ground works prior to their destruction should the *in situ* preservation of these remains prove infeasible;

- ii) should highly significant archaeological deposits be discovered in quantity, to prepare and implement a mitigation strategy compliant with NPPG 5 and PAN 42.

5. METHOD

- 5.1 The details of the archaeological works undertaken are laid out below, and were designed to fully satisfy the requirements of the planning authority.
- 5.2 All ground breaking works involved in the preparation of the site ahead of the memorial statue being erected were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The ground breaking work was undertaken using a JCB mechanical excavator using a 0.30 m wide toothless ditching bucket. All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Digital and Black and White Print photographic shots were taken during the Watching Brief (Appendix 1).

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 An area of approximately 30 m² was stripped of the granite kerb stones, paving slabs and cobbles to reveal a layer of modern concrete. Up to 1.00 m of overburden was removed from the trench, comprising concrete, rubble and tarmac.
- 6.2 A fragment of a sandstone wall was identified 0.75 m below the level of the existing road surface within the foundation trench for the statue (Figure 1). The feature was cleaned, recorded and subsequently removed. Unfortunately, because of the limited area that was opened, the full extent and function of the wall were not ascertained. No dating evidence was identified. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 A single mortar bonded sandstone wall was identified and fully recorded during a watching brief on all ground breaking works associated with the erection of a memorial statue to James Braidwod. The wall was adequately dealt with during the works and no further works is required.
- 7.2 No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

8. REFERENCES

AOC Archaeology Group 2006 *Royal Mile: Watching Brief, Data Structure Report*, Unpublished Client Report.

AOC Archaeology Group 2007, *Parliament House, Watching Brief, Data Structure Report*, Unpublished Client Report.

**James Braidwood Statue, Parliament Square:
Watching Brief Data Structure Report**

SOEnd 1994 Planning Advice Note 42: Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnd 1994a National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG 5. Archaeology and Planning. January 1994. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

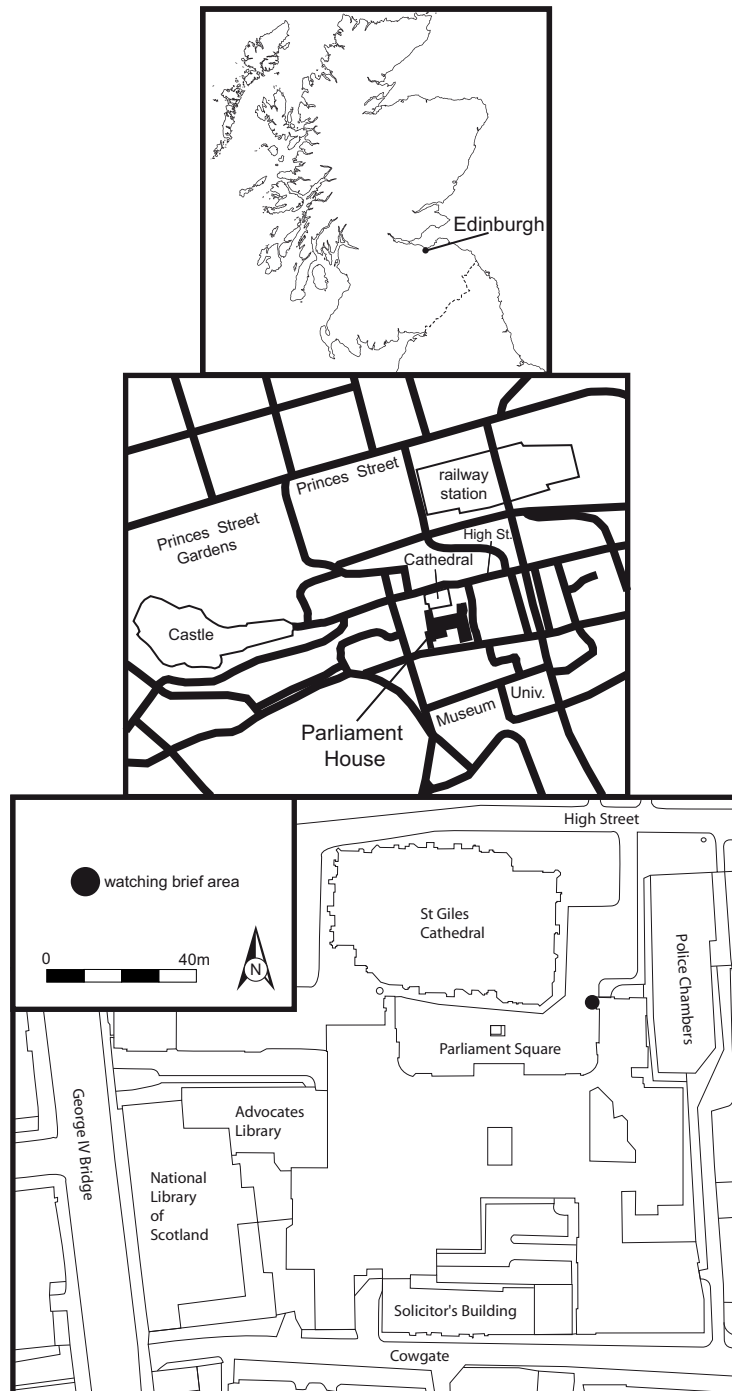


Figure 1: site location

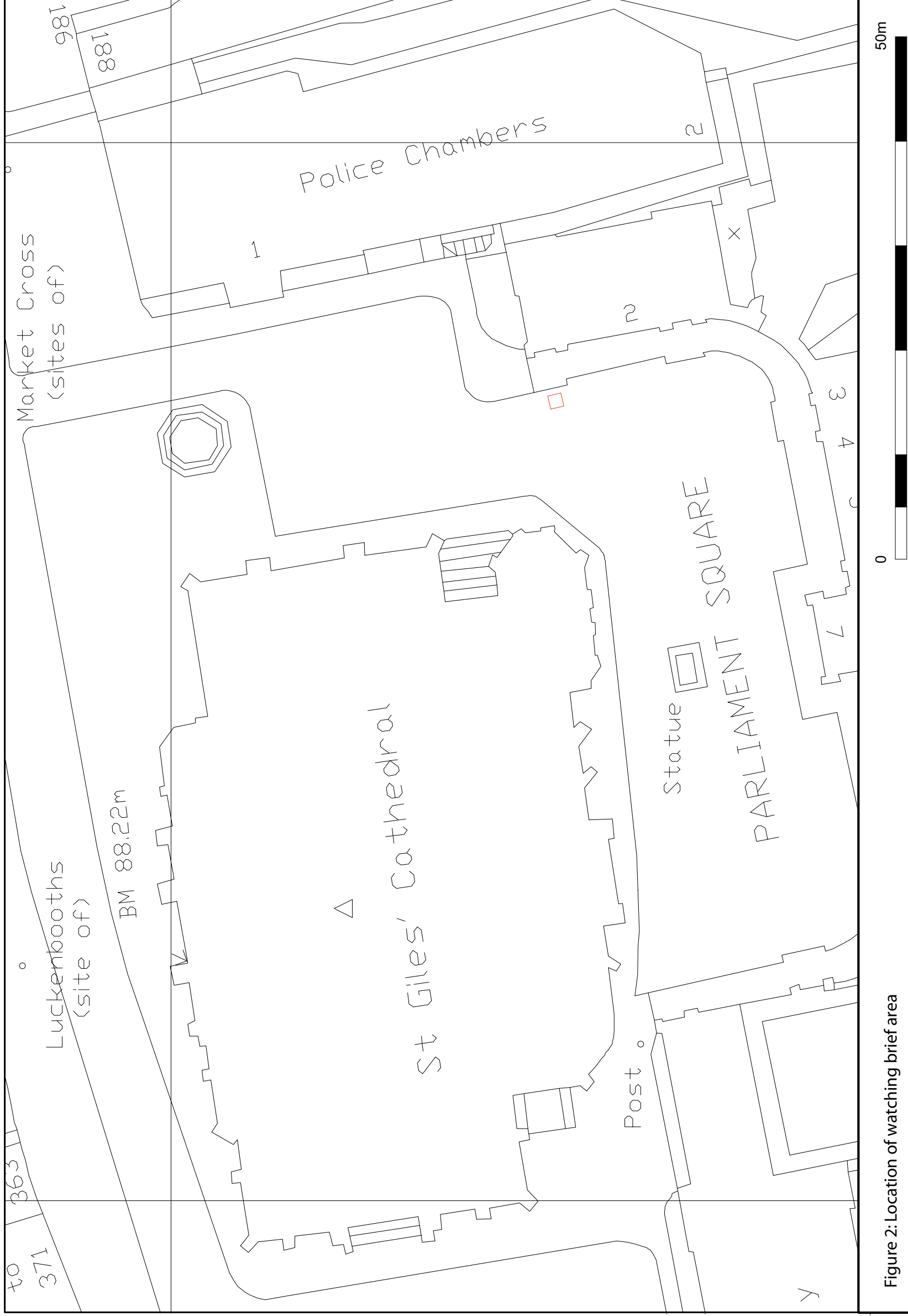


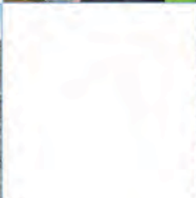
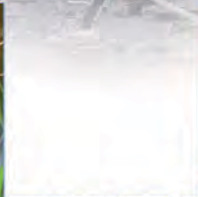
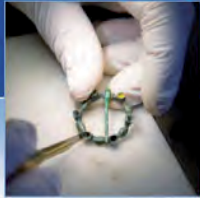
Figure 2: Location of watching brief area

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
1	General working shot of site on arrival	E
2	General working shot of development site	S
3	General working shot of development site	N
4-6	Exposed services within the southern end of the area	E
7-12	Detail of exposed wall [001]	Var
13	Detail of excavation area of plinth	E
14	General working shot of southern area under excavation	S
15	General working shot of southern area under excavation	E
16	Detail of trench once Wall [001] has been removed	E
17-18	General working shot of plinth area under excavation	

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	James Braidwood Statue, Parliament Square
PROJECT CODE:	21099
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Duffy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Listed buildings
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 121 733
START DATE (this season)	9 th July 2008
END DATE (this season)	10 th July 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground works associated with the erection of a memorial statue to James Braidwood within Parliament Square. The fragmentary remains of a mortar bonded sandstone wall were identified. No other significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ironside Farrar
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.



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