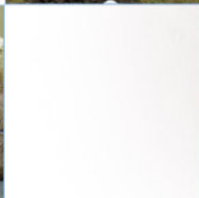
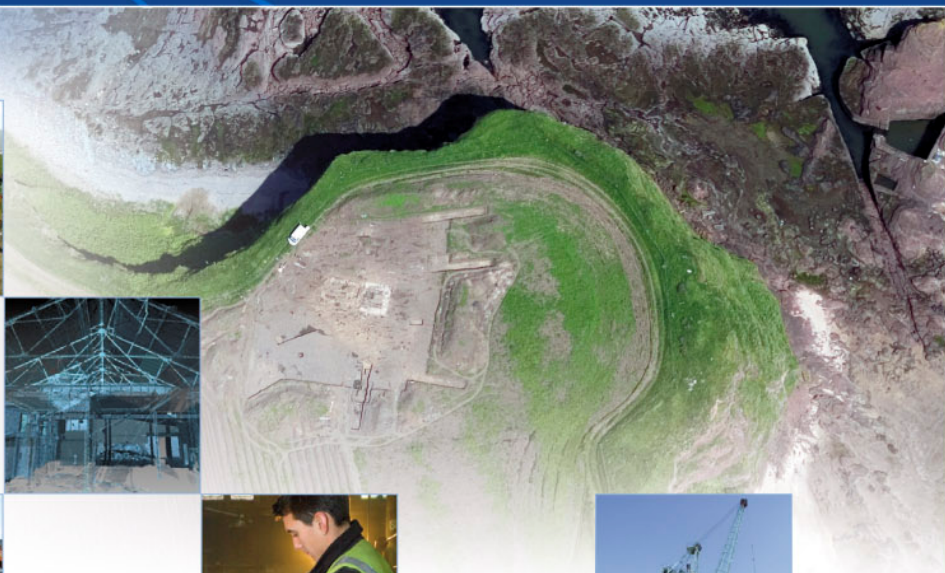


Cable Trench, High Court, Parliament Square, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

AOC Project Number 21178

September 2008



Cable Trench, High Court, Parliament Square, Edinburgh

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Scottish Court Service Parliament House Supreme Court for Scotland Edinburgh EH1 1RQ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 1096 7094
AOC Project No:	21178
Prepared by:	Alan Duffy
Illustration by:	Graeme Carruthers
Date of Monitoring Visit:	September 2008
Date of Report:	September 2008

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

Author: Alan Duffy

Date: 26th September 2008

Approved by: John Gooder

Date: 26th September 2008

Draft Stage:

Date: 26th September 2008

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com

Contents

	Page
1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	2
2 INTRODUCTION	2
3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	2
4. OBJECTIVES	2
5. METHOD	2
6 RESULTS	3
7 CONCLUSION	3
8. REFERENCES	3
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER.....	4
APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY	4

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Site location plan

Figure 2: Watching brief area location plan

1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief carried out during ground breaking works associated with the exposure of previously lain power cables in Parliament Square, Edinburgh identified no significant archaeological features, deposits or small finds.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 AOC Archaeology Group were commissioned by the Scottish Court Service to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the exposure of previously lain power cables at the High Court, Parliament Square, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 2578 7358) (Figures 1 & 2).
- 2.2 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.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The area lies a few metres to the east of St Giles Cathedral, an A-Listed building, (NMRS NT27SE 204) and immediately north of 1/2 Parliament Square, 'Royal Exchequer' building, also A-Listed, (NMRS NT27SE 1193) (Figure 1). As such it lies within Edinburgh's medieval core.
- 3.2 Excavations on the Royal Mile in recent years 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 have uncovered human remains (AOC 2007). In June 2008 a mortar bonded sandstone wall was identified during the monitoring of nearby groundbreaking works associated with a memorial statue to James Braidwood (AOC 2008). It was thus considered possible that similar remains may have survived within the area of ground preparation for the exposure of the mains cable.

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 All ground breaking works involved in the exposure of the power cables were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The ground breaking works were undertaken using a 360° 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 photographic shots were taken during the Watching Brief (Appendix 1).

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 An area approximately 1.30 m x 1.30 m was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.70 m. The stratigraphy was recorded as 0.10 m of tarmac overlying 0.20 m of concrete, which in turn overlay made ground including soil, occasional stones and modern detritus. The base of the made ground layer was not reached during the course of the works. Excavation showed that a later water pipe had also been laid within this area over the power cables.
- 6.2 No significant archaeological feature, deposits or artefactual material were identified.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 No significant archaeological material was identified during the course of the watching brief. 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.

AOC Archaeology Group 2008, *James Braidwood Statue, Watching Brief, Data Structure Report*, Unpublished Client 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.

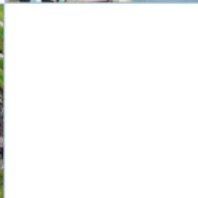
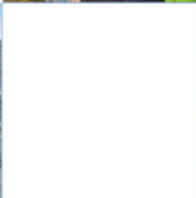
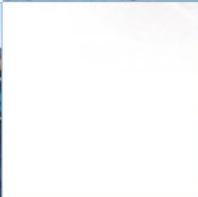
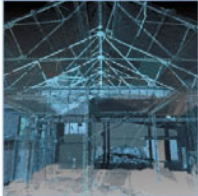
**Cable Trench, High Court, Parliament Square:
Watching Brief Report**

APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

<i>Frame</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>From</i>
1	Breaking of tarmac surface	E
2	Breaking of tarmac surface	S
3&4	Lifting of tarmac surface	S
5	Excavation of concrete	E
6	Excavation of concrete	S
7	Excavation of made ground	E
8	Excavated trench	E
9	Excavated trench	s

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Cable Trench, High Court, Parliament Square
PROJECT CODE:	21178
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):	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 121 733
START DATE (this season)	25 th July 2008
END DATE (this season)	26 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 exposure of previously lain power cables within Parliament Square. No significant archaeological remains or artefacts were identified.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Scottish Court Service
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.



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY

tel: 0131 440 3593 | **fax:** 0131 440 3593 | **e-mail:** edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com