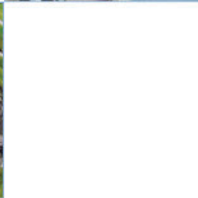
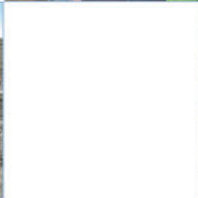
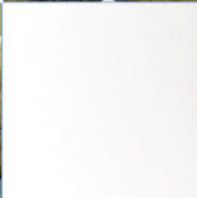
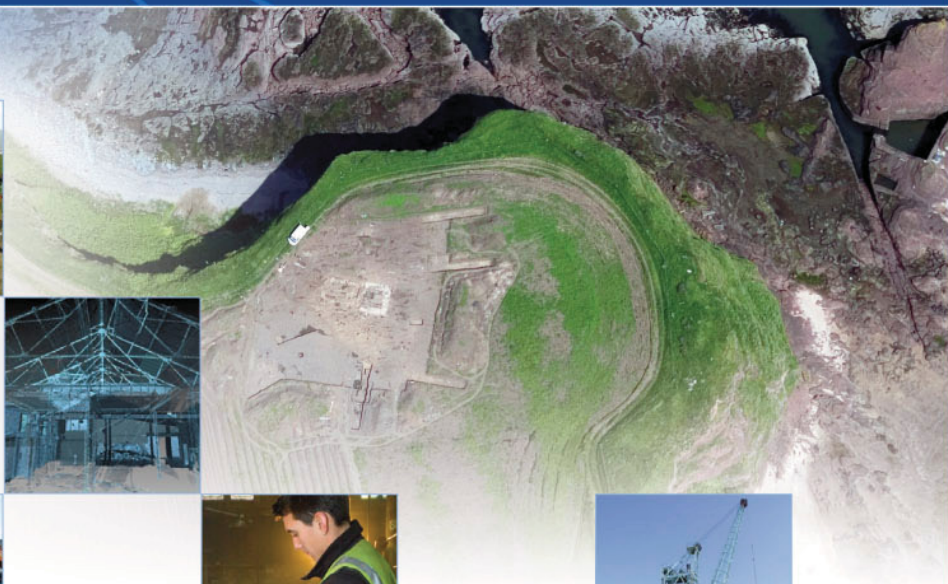


# Leith Street, Edinburgh: Watching Brief

AOC Project Number 20715  
July 2008



ARCHAEOLOGY

| HERITAGE

| CONSERVATION

## Leith Street, Edinburgh: Watching Brief

<b>On Behalf of:</b>	Kilmartin Property Group 7 Castle Street Edinburgh EH2 3AH
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	NT 2599 7412
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	20715
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Martin Cook
<b>Illustration by:</b>	Alan Hunter Blair
<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	Jan-July 2008
<b>Date of Report:</b>	July 2008

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

<b>Author:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Draft Stage:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology at Leith Street, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 2599 7412). The work was commissioned by Cyrill Sweett on behalf of their client Kilmartin Property Group in advance of the redevelopment of the former open space. The archaeological works were designed to satisfy the requirements of the local planning authority, as advised by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), and are in accordance with the principles inherent in NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).

The objective of the work was to prevent any negative physical impact on the archaeological resource without prior recording as derived from all ground-works associated with the proposed development. The work was carried out during Jan-July 2008 and was conducted according to the terms of a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2008) which was agreed by CECAS, and approved by the planning authority. The watching brief monitored the excavation of the foundation space below the new buildings.

The watching brief revealed the remains of tenement cellars and foundations relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century occupation of the site. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified. No further archaeological works are recommended.

## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief carried out during all ground breaking works associated with proposed redevelopment of an area of former parkland, at the foot of Calton Hill on Leith Street, Edinburgh (centred on NGR: NT 2599 7412), identified a series of 19<sup>th</sup> century tenement wall and cellars.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Cyrill Sweett on behalf of their client Kilmartin Property Group to undertake an archaeological watching brief during all ground works associated with the proposed construction of a new office block, associated car park and infrastructure in Leith Street, Edinburgh. 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 The project design was outlined in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (2008) which was agreed by both the client and Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Location**

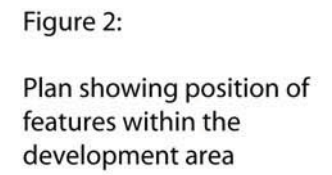
- 3.1.1 The proposed development area lies at the foot of Calton Hill (NGR: NT 2599 7412, Figures 1 and 2), and is bounded by Leith Street to the west, Greenside Row to the north and by Calton Hill itself to the east.
- 3.1.2 The site, irregular in shape, covers an area of approximately 650 m<sup>2</sup> of grassed park, formerly the site of a row of tenements buildings. The location and plan of the site is shown in Figure 1.





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Figure 1: Site location plan





## 3.2 Archaeological Background

- 3.2.1 The proposed development site while most recently an area of parkland was formerly occupied by successive tenements and dwelling originating from at least the Georgian period, but perhaps as early as the Medieval period.
- 3.2.2 Historic and cartographic evidence demonstrate that the site would have existed outside the city boundaries during the 17<sup>th</sup> century (Gordon of Rothiemay 1647, not shown). While the site still existed on the outskirts of the city through out the majority of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, by 1768 the proposed development of the Edinburgh New Town meant the area was no longer so isolated.



Figure 3: John Ainslie's City of Edinburgh, 1780

- 3.2.2 The rapid expansion of the New Town westwards from St Andrew's Square encouraged the development of the top of Leith Walk and the surrounding area as demonstrated by Ainslie's 1780 Edinburgh map (Ainslie 1780, Figure 3).



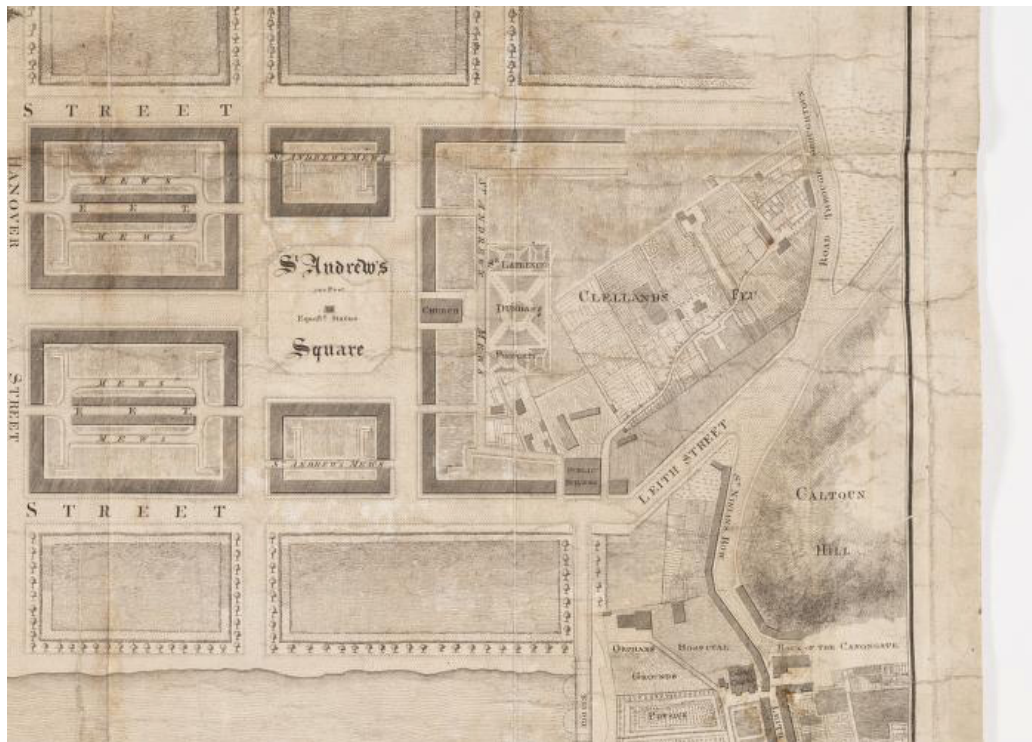


Figure 4: James Craig's plan of Edinburgh New Town, 1795

3.2.3 By 1780 the proposed development itself was occupied by a series of tenement buildings and their associated back lands. The same buildings were recorded as occupying the proposed development on Ainslie's second Edinburgh map (1804), but by the publication of 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map (1849), they had been demolished and replaced. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS map identified the probable building that occupied the site as the Temperance Hotel (1890), which formed part of a series of Georgian townhouses on Leith Street (Figure 5). The buildings were subsequently home to a series of business including Crown Wallpapers, Fairley's Bar, Jerome Portraits, Hardy and Co and William P Harrower Ltd (NMRS: NT27SE3589). The buildings were subsequently demolished in the 1960s to make way for the associated works of the St James' Centre.



Figure 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey of Edinburgh, 1890

## 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 proposed development were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The watching brief monitored the removal of all the material overlying the natural bedrock. The ground breaking work was undertaken using a 360<sup>0</sup> mechanical tracked excavator using a combination of toothed and ditching buckets.

5.3 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).

5.4 In addition to the watching brief officer on site, when required, additional archaeologists were on site to assist with any features identified.



Plate 1: Plate to illustrate Structure/Tenement [179]

## 6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between January and July 2008 in a mixture of dry, wet and cold weather. The following should be read in conjunction with Appendices 1-2, Figures 2 to 6 and Plates 1-4.
- 6.2 Despite the restrictive nature of the watching brief, the monitoring works were able to identify a series of sandstone walls, concrete floors and other architectural features representing the remains of the tenements that formerly occupied the site. Generally, the features identified were found to have been truncated by the subsequent development of the site, and are represented by isolated walls. In the areas where the successive development would have been restricted, the features appear to have survived better.





Plate 2: Plate to illustrate the threshold [166] within Structure [179]

- 6.3 Structure [179] formed part of the basement level of a tenement block, comprising a probable room/basement and associated threshold/steps [166]. The sandstone structure was rectilinear in shape, comprised of walls [160], [162], [163] and [164] and measured approximately 4.7 m east to west by 1.50 m north to south and up to 0.90 m in height. The presence of the white bricks tiles suggest that at least part of the building was built or restructured in the Victorian period. The small room was associated with wall [170], which probably represents the outer/external wall of the same building.



Plate 3: Plate to illustrate Structure [180]



- 6.4 A small section of red brick wall and an associated concrete floor were both identified within the section underlying the Leith Street pavement. The features were very truncated but appeared to from the basement of a tenement. The large amount of red brick within the area generally, and the wall themselves suggests that they related to the Victorian period.
- 6.5 Isolated features were recorded across the whole site and usually comprised single walls or arches and include walls [100], [102], [104] and arch [101]. All fours structures were identified in section, underlying the pavement, and are thought to represent the frontages of Victorian or Georgian buildings that lined the street (for examples see Figure 5).
- 6.6 A wall [178] identified to the south-west of the site, on the edge of Calton Hill (the street rather than the hill itself) comprised of roughly bonded sandstone blocks. The location of the wall on the northern side of Calton Hill suggest it may have formed part of one of the Georgian or Victorian tenement buildings built aligning the street (Figures 2 and 3; Plate 4).



Plate 4: Plate to illustrate wall [178]

- 6.7 No artefactual evidence was recovered *in situ*, and very few diagnostic features were observed within the tenement buildings. However, the cartographic historical evidence demonstrates that all of the features relate to either the Georgian or Victorian tenements buildings which once stood there. The identification of both white ceramic and red bricks suggest that at least one phase of the buildings were built or restructured in the Victorian period, although the large sandstone walls could relate to the earlier Georgian period.

## 7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The archaeological watching brief was successful in identifying evidence for the former occupation of the site. The survival of these structures occurred where the successive development would have been restricted, limiting the subsequent truncation.
- 7.2 Unfortunately no evidence was identified for the medieval occupation of the site. However, cartographic evidence suggests that the proposed site may not have been occupied until the late 18<sup>th</sup> century when the New Town expanded westwards down Leith Walk. Instead, the excavated structures suggest evidence for the occupation of the site within the Georgian and Victorian periods.
- 7.3 All of the features identified within the watching brief were fully excavated and recorded prior to their removal by machine excavation. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified and no further works are considered necessary.

## **8 REFERENCES**

### **8.1 Bibliographic References**

AOC Archaeology Group 2008, *Leith Street, Written Scheme of Investigation*, 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.

### **8.2 Cartographic References**

Ainslie, John City of Edinburgh 1780

Ainslie, John, City of Edinburgh 1804

Craig, James, Plan of Edinburgh's New Town, 1795

Gordon of Rothiemay, J 1647 Birds Eye View of Edinburgh

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition Map of Edinburgh, 1849

Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition Map of Edinburgh, 1895

## APPENDIX 1

### Photographic Record

#### Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4		General working shots of site	NE
5-8		General working shots of site	N
9-10		General working shots of site	N
11-12		Detail of wall identified in pile	E
13-14		Detail of wall identified in pile	E
15		Detail of wall identified in pile	E
16		Detail of wall identified in pile	E
17		Detail of wall identified in pile	E
18-19		Detail of sandstone wall within pile	E
20-21		Detail of concrete floor exposed within pile	W
22-23		Detail of concrete floor exposed within pile	NW
24-25		Detail of bred brick wall and concrete floor	E
26-27		Detail of brick wall	S
28-29		Detail of iron pipe within wall	S
30-31		Overview of area exposed	E
32-33		Overview of area exposed	S
34-35		Detail of test-pit excavated for environmental sampling	N
36-37		Detail of second test-pit for environmental sampling	N
38		Detail of large sandstone block identified within made ground	N

#### Black & White Print Film 2

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shots	
3-4		Detail of test-pit taken for environmental sampling	E
3-4		Detail of test-pit taken for environmental sampling	E
5-6		Detail of sandstone wall identified in Core W10	NW
7-8		Sandstone wall [100] identified between W1 and W2	N
9-10		Sandstone wall [100] located between W1 and W2	E
11-12		Sandstone wall [100] located between W1 and W2	E
13-14		Detail of red brick arch [101]	E
15-16		Detail of wall [100]	N
17-18		Detail of wall [100]	E
19-20		Detail of wall [100]	S
21-22		Detail of wall [124] between W9 and W10	NE
23-24		Detail of excavation of Shutter 6	S
25-26		Detail of excavation of Shutter 7	S
27-28		Detail of excavation of Shutter 8	S
29-30		Working shot during removal of arch [101], Shutter 1	NW
31-32		Working shot during removal of arch [101], Shutter 1	S
33-34		Working shot of excavation of Shutter 9	E
35-36		Working shot of excavation of Shutter 10	N



## Black &amp; White Print Film 3

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Working shot during excavation of Shutter 11	E
3		Registration	
4-5		Working shot of excavation of Shutter 12	S
6-7		Working shot of excavation of Shutter 13	E
8-9		Working shot of excavation of Shutter 14	S
10-11		Detail of wall identified in W11	E
12-13		Detail of wall [100] between W10 and W9	NE
14-15		Detail of wall [100]	E
16-17		Detail of 20 <sup>th</sup> century road	E

## Black &amp; White Print Film 4

Frame	Area	Description	From
1		Registration shots	
2-3		Working shot during ground reduction works on west part of site	N
4-5		Detail of sandstone wall [155] with brick facing (W8)	E
6-7		Detail of sandstone wall [154] in front of W9	E
8-9		Detail of sandstone wall [156] and brick blocking between W4 and W3	E
10-11		Detail of sandstone walls [157] and [158] and grout deposit [159]	E
12-13		Working shot of ground reduction works in north-west part of the site	NE
14-15		General view of wall [165]	W
16-17		Detail of sandstone structure [160-164]	NW
18-19		Detail of sandstone structure [160-164]	W
20-21		Detail of walls [163] and [162]	W
22-23		Detail of feature [166] and wall [160]	W
24-25		Detail of dark midden material [167]	NE
26-27		Detail of walls [160] to [164]	S
28-29		Detail of walls [160] to [164]	SE
30-31		Detail of wall [162], comprising curving fragment	E
32-33		General shot of wall [170]	W
34		General shot of possible furnace [171], and walls [172] and [178]	W

## Black &amp; White Print Film 5

Frame	Area	Description	From
1		Registration shots	
2-3		Detail of sandstone wall [177] between W13 and W14	E
4-5		General view showing bedrock between 57 and 58?	N
6-7		Detail of wall [178]	N
8-9		Detail of wall [178]	W

10-11		General view of wall running to the side of the site entrance	SW
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## APPENDIX 2

### Context Register

Context	Feature	Description
100	Wall	North to south aligned sandstone wall identified within Shutter 1, measuring 3.20m by 0.30 m by unknown depth. Frontage of Victorian tenement.
101	Arch	Stone arch identified within Shutter 1, comprising 9 sandstone blocks, measuring 1.1 m by 0.53 m in height. Frontage of Victorian tenement building.
102	Wall	Fragment of a sandstone wall running parallel to [100], north to south, measuring 0.18 m by 0.48 m in height.
103	Deposit	Bonding material comprising a grey silty sand, possibly used to bond sandstone wall. Found throughout area of wall [100], [101] and [103].
104	Wall	Sandstone wall aligned north to south on same alignment as [102] and probably represents the same feature.
105	Deposit	Deposit of Type 1 gravel.
106	Deposit	Deposit of brown silt with frequent inclusions of red brick, identified in section. Measuring 0.37 m by 0.07 m in depth. Modern disturbance.
107	Deposit	Deposit of brown silt with inclusions of angular stones, red bricks, measuring 0.80 m in width by 0.27 m in depth. Probably forms the remnants of a service cut.
108	Deposit	Made ground comprising brown silt with frequent inclusions of Type 1, red brick, below the tarmac road.
109	Deposit	Made Ground
110	Cut	Cut of pile W2.
111	Deposit	Made ground
112	Cut	Cut of pile W1
113	Deposit	Made ground
114	Deposit	Made ground identified between wall [101]
115	Deposit	Made ground
116	Deposit	Made ground
117	Deposit	Made Ground
118	Cut	Modern cut of fence
119	Deposit	Yellow mortar bonding of wall [101].
120	Deposit	Made Ground
121	Cut	Modern cut of fence
122	Deposit	Made ground
123	Cut	Modern cut
124		Made ground
125		Wall

126		Mortar bonding wall 125
127		Made ground
128		Made ground
129		Made ground
130		Made ground
131		Made ground
132		Modern cut
133		Made ground
134		Kerb stones
135		Made ground
136		Type 1
137		Made ground
138		Concrete
139		Made ground
140		Made ground
141	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall, aligned north to south. Measuring 0.35 m by 0.53 m in height.
142	Wall	Red brick wall identified overlying [141].
143		
144	Wall	Sandstone wall identified overlying wall [141]
145		Modern
146		Modern
147		Modern
148		Modern
149		Pavement
150		Modern
151		Modern
152		Stone arch associated with wall [101]
153		Mortar bonding around wall [152]
154		Lime bonded sandstone wall, aligned east to west, measuring 0.45 m by 0.85 m in height. Abutted by demolition material to the south. Remnants of the tenement wall.
155	Wall	Lime bonded sandstone wall, comprising roughly dressed blocks, aligned east to west. Measuring 0.90 m by 0.85 m in height. Remnants of the tenement wall.
156	Wall	North to south aligned, lime bonded sandstone wall, made from roughly dressed yellow sandstone. A gap in the wall has been repaired using more modern red bricks. Measuring 3 m in length by 0.85 m in height. Remnants of the tenement wall.
157	Wall	East to west aligned wall comprising lime bonded sandstone truncated by later work. Measuring 0.85 m in height by 0.30 m in width. Remnants of the tenement wall. Same as [158].
158	Wall	East to west aligned wall comprising lime bonded sandstone truncated by later work. Measuring 0.85 m in height by 0.30 m in width. Remnants of the tenement wall. Same as [157].
159	Grout	Deposit of grout located between walls [157] and [158]. Modern truncation?
160	St [176]	North to south aligned sandstone wall, comprising lime bonded rubble, tied in to wall [164]. Forms the western wall of a small room.

161	St [176]	North to south aligned yellow sandstone wall, bonded by lime mortar, measuring 4.9 m by 0.45 m in width by 0.80 m in height. Forms the western wall of a small room.
162	St [176]	East to west aligned sandstone wall comprising yellow sandstone bonded by lime mortar, measuring 4.7 m by 0.40 m in width by 1.5 m in height. Forms the southern wall of the small room.
163	St [176]	North to south aligned, lime mortar bonded sandstone wall, measuring 1.10 m by 0.95 m by 1.45 m in height. Forms the western wall of the small room.
164	St [179]	East to west aligned sandstone wall, comprising lime bonded sandstone rubble, measuring 1.10 m by 0.53 m in width by 0.90 m in height. Forms northern wall of small room.
165	Wall	Isolated sandstone wall, bonded with limestone mortar, and abutted by a concrete floor. Measured 9 m by 2 m in height. Only partially excavated due to H & S restrictions.
166	St [179]	Threshold between walls [160] and [163], measuring 1.23 m in width by 1.10 m in height.
167	Deposit	Deposit identified abutting wall [162], comprising a black loose silty clay with frequent inclusions of bone, plaster and fragments of sandstone. Measuring 0.90 m in depth by 0.60 m by 0.60 m in size.
168	Plaster	Layer of plaster lining northern face of wall [163].
169	St [179]	Small section of white bricks, 5 courses high located on northern edge of threshold [166].
170	Wall	East to west aligned red brick wall, measuring 3.5 m in length. Probably the same as wall [162].
171	Arch	Sandstone built, lime mortared arch, measuring 2.33 m in length by 1.16 m in height. Built directly on to bedrock. Forms cellar of tenement.
172	Wall	East to west aligned brick wall, measuring 2.10 m by 0.24 in width by 1.70 m in height. Abutted by concrete [173].
173	Concrete	Concrete floor, measuring 4 m by 2.5 m by 0.25 m in depth. Abutted by wall [172].
174	Slabs	Sandstone slabs identified at base of arch [171], measuring 0.56 m by 0.65 m by 0.12 m in depth.
175	Wall	North to south aligned sandstone wall, measuring 1.5 m in length. Tied in to the east to west part of arch [171].
176	Deposit	Deposit of sooty material overlying sandstone slabs [174]
177	Wall	North to south aligned stone wall, made from roughly dressed sandstone blocks, bonded by a yellow lime mortar. Measuring 0.5 m in width by 0.90 m in height.
178	Wall	East to west aligned section of wall, built from blue whinstone, but poorly made. Comprising the corner of a structure built over the natural bedrock.
179	Structure	General number assigned to small room comprising walls [160], [161], [162], [163], [164] and steps [166].
180	Structure	General number assigned to a series of associated features; wall [172] and concrete floor and fittings [173].
181	Wall	Red brick wall identified next to concrete floor [182]
182	Floor	Concrete floor associated with wall [181].



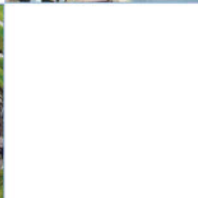
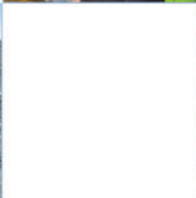
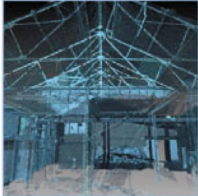
## APPENDIX 3

### Drawing Register

Dr No	Description	Scale
1	Plan of wall [181] and concrete floor [182]	1:20
2	East facing section through showing wall [100]	1:20
3	Elevation of sandstone arch [101]	1:20
4	Plan of made ground and Shutter W10	1:20
5	Elevation of brick wall [125]	1:20
6	East facing elevation of wall [141] and [144]	1:20
7	East facing elevation of arch [152]	1:20

**APPENDIX 4: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY**

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Leith Street Watching Brief
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	20715
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Martin Cook
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NMRS: NT27SE3589
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Post-Medieval buildings
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 2599 7412
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	January 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on all ground breaking works associated with the construction of an office block and associated underground car park. A series of buildings associated with the post-Medieval use of the area were identified and fully recorded, prior to their eventual removal. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Kilmartin Property Group
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	admin@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.



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