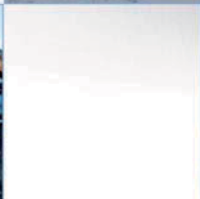
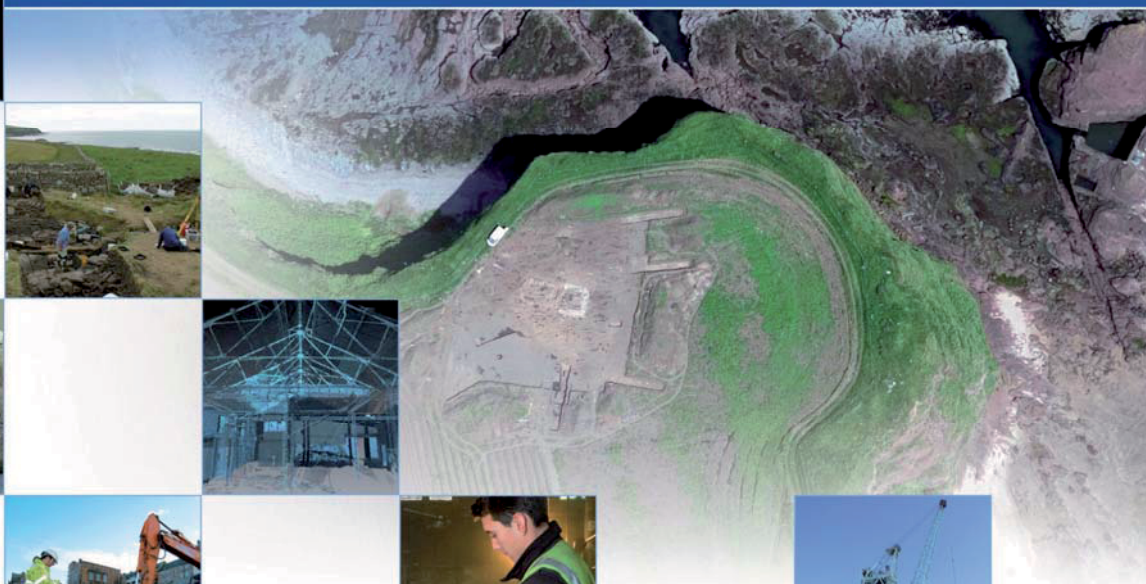


102 West Port, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

20368
July 2008



102 West Port, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

On Behalf of:	Kenmore Westport Ltd c/o Cyril Sweett Ltd Apex 3, 95 Haymarket Terrace Edinburgh EH12 5LQ
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 2507 7318
AOC Project No:	20 368
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Date of Fieldwork:	March - July 2008
Date of Report:	July 2008

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

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Date: 29th July 2008

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Date: 29th July 2008

Draft Report Stage:

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Appendix 2	<i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at 102 West Port, Edinburgh. The work was commissioned by Cyril Sweett on behalf of their client, Kenmore Westport Ltd.

The objective of the work was to monitor all ground breaking works associated with this development, including the site investigation works, and so prevent the destruction of any archaeological material prior to its recording.

The watching brief was carried out during March-June 2008. The work identified a series of sandstone constructed walls, stone lined culvert and stone lined well. No datable material was recovered from any of the features, but all are likely to relate to the post-medieval occupation of the site. No further works are required.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Cyril Sweett on behalf of their client, Kenmore Westport Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during all ground breaking works associated with the proposed redevelopment of a derelict land parcel at 102 West Port, Edinburgh (Figure 1). The site is located within the Local Authority administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council. The work was undertaken in compliance with the requirements of the Conditions of Planning Consent (Ref: 06/02664/FUL) as imposed the City of Edinburgh Council as advised by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS), and was in accord with planning guidelines as set out in NPPG 5 (SOEnD 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994a).

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development site is located in Central Edinburgh at an area known as Westport, between Tollcross and the Grassmarket. Lady Lawson Street forms the eastern boundary of the site and Lauriston Street the western boundary (NGR: NT 2507 7318).

1.3 Archaeological background

- 1.3.1 The proposed development area lies within close proximity to the medieval core of Edinburgh, to the immediate west of the former western gate (the Westport a post medieval suburb of Edinburgh) into the Grassmarket. Despite being situated outside the city boundaries in the mid 1600s, cartographic evidence suggests the proposed development was already occupied by tenements/burgh plots at this time (see James Gordon of Rothiemay map, 1647) which stretched along the main western thoroughfare into the city.
- 1.3.2 As Edinburgh expanded the proposed development site was built over by a series of developments, both residential and commercial. By the time of the publication of the Ordnance Survey Map of 1876 the site was occupied by Victorian tenements buildings and a public house (Figure 2). The buildings were subsequently demolished and replaced by the Beverly Cinema (NMRS: NT27SE5195) in 1930. The cinema itself was closed in 1959 and was replaced by a pub and an office block in the 1960s.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:
- i) to monitor site investigation works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that will be disturbed by the development programme;
 - iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that would suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* is impractical), the implementation of appropriate excavation mitigation response following discussion with the client and CECAS.



Figure 2: Town Plan of Edinburgh 1876-7

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The details of the archaeological works are laid out below and were designed to fully meet the requirements of planning authority as advised by CECAS.
- 3.2 All ground breaking works, included the programme of site investigation works, associated with the development were monitored; these comprised the excavation of coring piles, service trenches and the stripping of the overburden across the site.
 - 3.2.2 The coring comprised of the excavation of 21 piles along the south-western side of the site roughly 2 m away from the Hayweight Building. The first 17 piles were situated along the line of the Hayweight building. Piles 18-21 were excavated in a line running perpendicular to the building.
 - 3.2.3 During groundworks all ground breaking works (below the level of existing ground slab) associated with the proposed development was monitored. The groundworks were undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision.
 - 3.2.4 All monitoring was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures (Appendix 7, 7.1 to 7.29). Digital and black & white print photographic shots were taken during the watching brief (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken between 17th March and 18th July 2008 during a mixture of overcast days and sunny days. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendices 1-5 and Figure 1.

- 4.2 Despite the obvious restrictions of monitoring coring piles, archaeological features were observed and allowed the archaeologist on site information as to the likelihood of identifying subsurface remains. The material excavated from the pile holes comprised of made ground material. This consisted of modern demolition rubble (broken brick and concrete) with occasional inclusions of steel rods and plastic mixed with grey grit.
- 4.3 No significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered in Piles 1- 18. In Piles 19-21 the remains of sandstone foundations ([001], [002] and [004]) were revealed. The excavation of Piles 17-21 identified a series of single course sandstone foundations, up to 0.20 m in depth, directly overlying the natural subsoil. These were preserved *in situ* due to their location along the old Lauriston footpath.
- 4.4 The reduction of the ground level within the development area revealed a number of archaeologically significant features. These included a series of ten sandstone walls, a stone-capped culvert and a well/sump. All the walls were constructed of unshaped sandstone blocks set upon large rectangular cut sandstone slab foundations and bonded with a clayey sand mortar. The walls remain averaged 0.75 m to 1 m in width and stood to varying heights (between 0.5 m and 2 m). All the foundations sat directly upon natural red or grey sterile clay subsoil. These walls were constructed to the north and west of the development site and generally conformed in plan (along their longest axis) to the line of West Port Road and Lauriston Street. It seems likely that the walls form the remains of the Victorian tenements recorded on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan (Figure 2).
- 4.5 The stone-capped culvert [016] and well/sump [015] were located to the north-east of the site. The culvert consisted of a 7.5 m long drain, 0.8 m wide and 0.89 m deep, cut into the natural underlying clay. Culvert [016] was curvilinear in plan and ran roughly north to south (Figure 4). It averaged 0.7 m wide and was capped with 11 (visible) sandstone slabs individually averaging 0.8 m by 0.8 m and 0.10 m thick. The drain was filled with wet, loose gravel and grey clay, and occasional medium sized (c. 0.08 m dia) angular stones. At its northern extent the drain ran under an east to west oriented sandstone wall, below a modern ceramic drain which has been inserted through the wall from its northern side. At this northern extent the drain also continued to run to the east along the southern edge of the sandstone wall and was overlain by modern demolition remains.
- 4.6 A large partially rock cut well [015] was identified to the immediate south of the culvert feature (Figure 3). As the well was identified below the proposed foundation levels of the building the feature was only partially exposed and excavated. Due to Health and Safety factors the lower part of the well was excavated by machine and later capped by concrete. The well comprised a 2.40 m cut at least 3 m in depth. The lower part of the well was excavated through the natural bedrock, while the upper level was lined with sandstone coursing [019]. The base of the cut was not identified. No datable material was recovered from the well, and its shape and form are diagnostic to neither period nor function. It seems likely that the feature is a well of probable post-medieval date.



Figure 3: Stone-lined well feature [015]

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief was successful in identifying evidence for the post-medieval occupation, primarily 19th century tenement remains, of the proposed development area. All the archaeological features identified during the works were fully recorded and the majority have now been destroyed by the ground breaking works. The only features preserved in situ comprise fragments of walls [001], [002] and [004] survived due to their location along the old Lauriston footpath. The lower part of the well feature was also preserved due to its location well below the level of the new building foundations.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require the confirmation of CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

SOEnD 1994 *National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG5. Archaeology and Planning*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a *Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

Gordon of Rothiemay, J 1647 *Birds Eye View of Edinburgh*.

Ordnance Survey 1876-7 *Town Plan of Edinburgh*



102 West Port, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

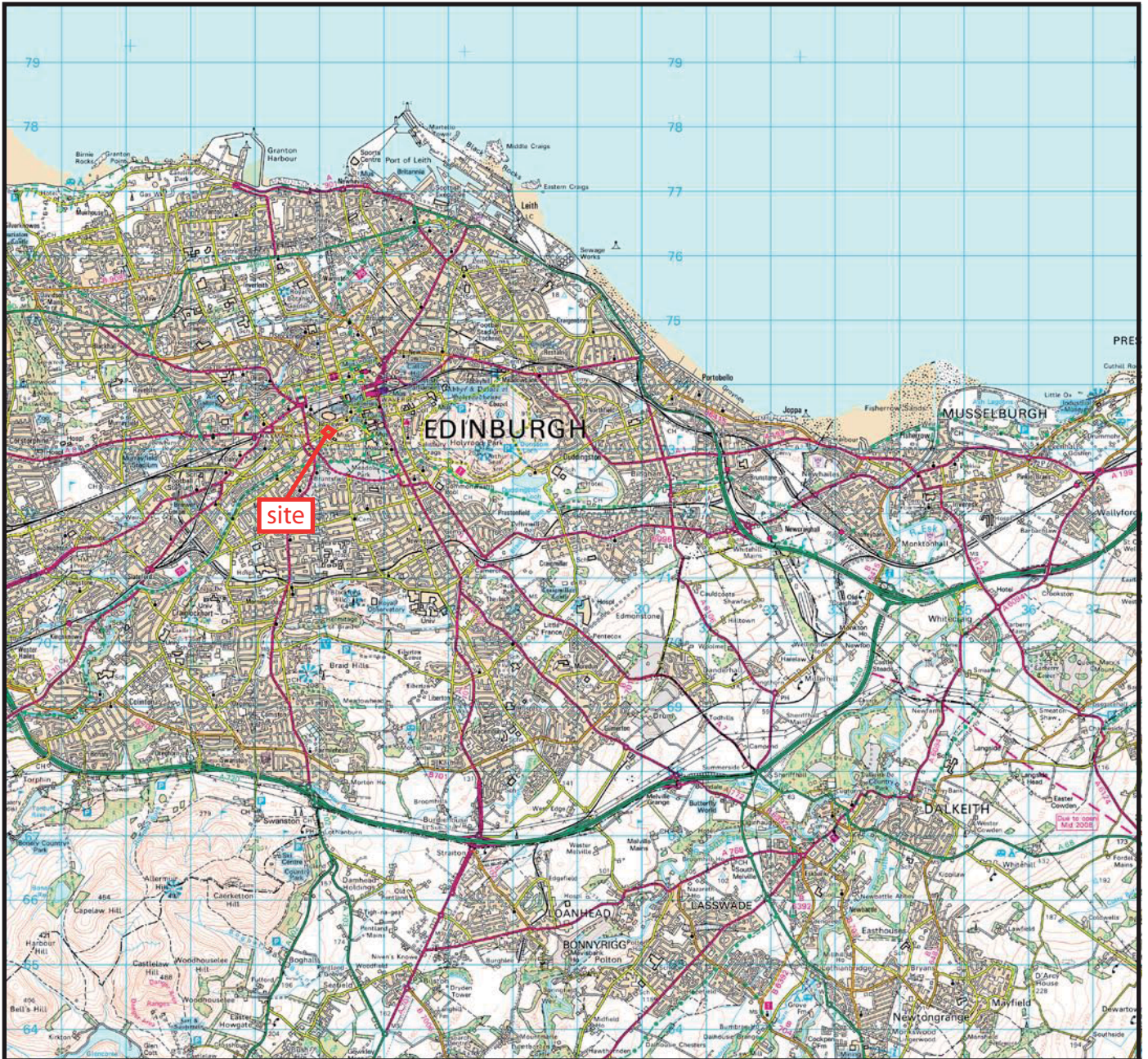
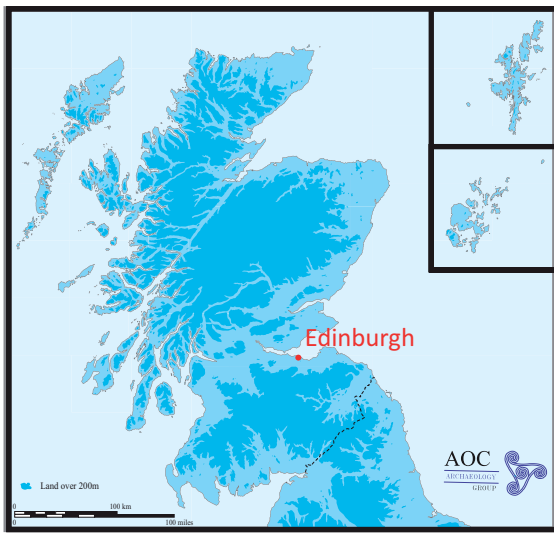
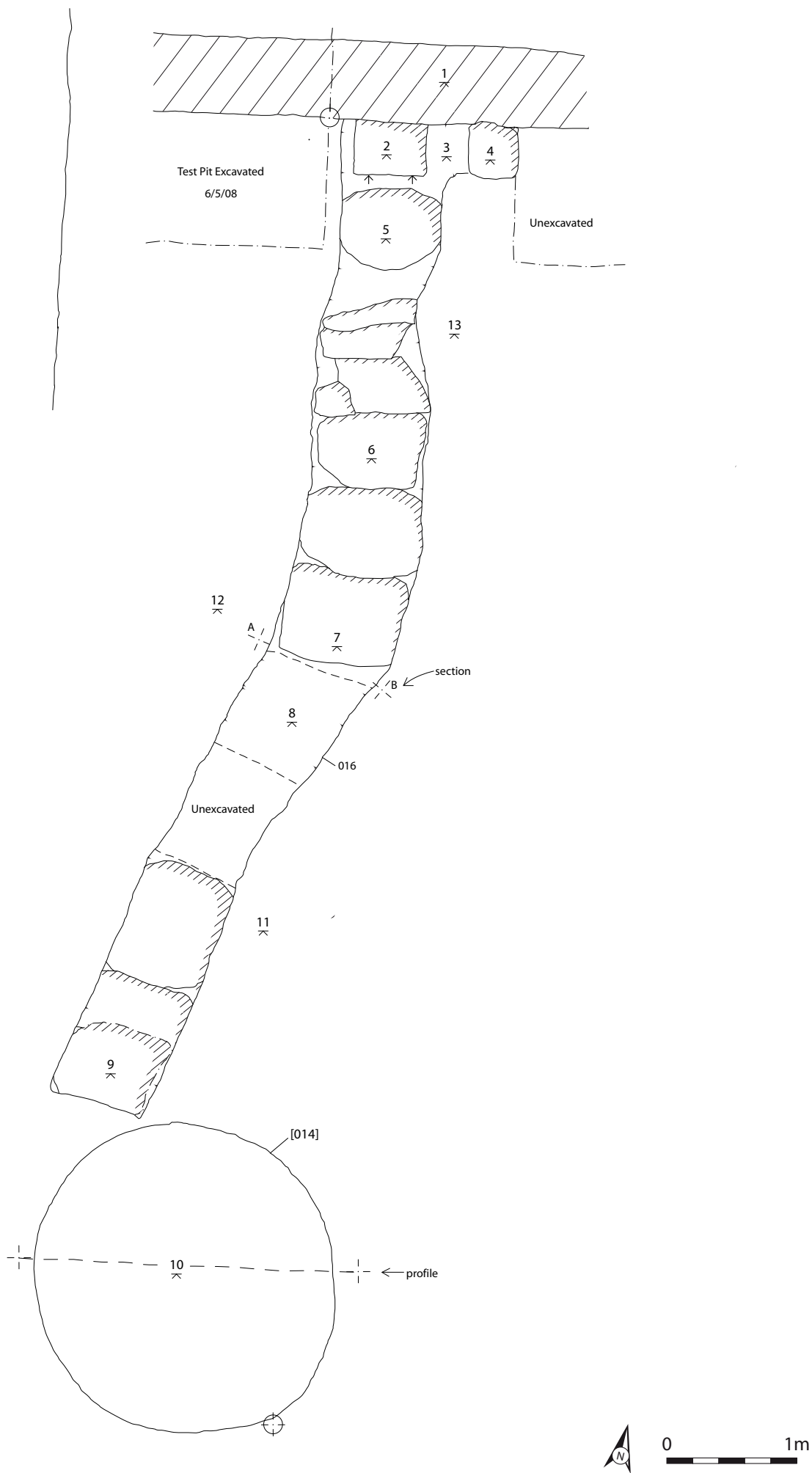


Figure 1: Site location

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102 West Port, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1

Photographic Record

Black & White Print Film 1

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-3		Registration shot	
4-5		Working shot during piling	E
6-7		Working shot of Pile 10 being excavated	E
8-9		Working shot of Pile 15 being excavated	E
10-11		Working shot of Pile 8 being excavated	S
12-13		Pre-excavation shot of location of Pile 12	E
14-15		Working shot of excavated material from Pile 8	E
16-17		Post-excavation shot of pile prior to concrete casing being laid	S
18-19		Pre-excavation shot of Pile 4	E
20-21		Working shot of material excavated from Pile 4	E
22-23		Post-excavation shot of Pile 4	E
24-25		Pre-ex shot of Pile 7 prior to concrete casing being laid	E
26-27		Detail of material excavated from Pile 7	E
28-29		Post-excavation shot of Pile 7	E
31-32		General shot of plies laid	E
33-34		General shot of piles laid	W
35-36		Pre-ex shot of ground prior to drilling pile being set up	E
37-38		Post-excavation shot of Pile 7	W

Black & White Print Film 2

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shot	
3-4		Shot of material excavated from Pile 14	E
5-6		Detail of Pile 14	E
7-8		Detail of material excavated from Pile 6	W
9-10		Detail of interior of Pile 6	E
11-12		Pre-excavation shot of Pile 9	E
13-14		Working shot of spoil being removed	E
15-16		Post-excavation shot of Pile 9	SE
17-18		Pre-excavation shot of Pile 2	W
19-20		Working shot of spoil being removed from Pile 2	E
21-22		Post-excavation shot of Pile 2	S
23-24		General shot of Pile 2	S
25-26		Pre-excavation shot of Pile 13	W
27-28		Detail of material excavated from Pile 13	E
29-30		Post-excavation shot of Pile 13	E
31-32		Working shot of Pile 1	E
33-34		Post-excavation shot of Pile 1	S
35-36		Working shot of pile excavation	S
37-38		Post-excavation shot of Pile 1	S

Black & White Print Film 3

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shot	
3-4		Pre-excavation working shot of Piles 16-21	S

5-6		Pre-excavation working shots of Piles 16-21	N
7-8		Pre-excavation shot of Pile 16	S
9-10		Detail of material excavated from Pile 16	N
11-12		Detail of Pile 16	N
13-14		General shot of area	N
15-16		General shot of area	S
17-18		Working shot of made ground under excavation	N
19-20		Working shots of foundations recorded on site	W
21-22		Detail of piles along west side of site	S
23-24		Detail of sandstone foundations	N
25-26		Detail of sandstone foundations	W
27-28		Working shots of slabs being lifted	NW
29-30		Detail of natural underlying slab	N
31-32		Shot of material excavated from Pile 18	N

Black & White Print Film 4

Frame	Area	Description	From
1-2		Registration shot	
3-4		Detail of casing for Piles 18 and 20	E
5-10		Detail of area where possible sandstone wall removed	W

APPENDIX 2

Test-Pit Record

Pile Hole 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.10 m
<i>Description</i>	3 m of made ground on bedrock
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None.

Pile Hole 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3 m
<i>Description</i>	3 m of made ground on bedrock.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	3.10 m
<i>Description</i>	Up to 0.52 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.40 m
<i>Description</i>	0.52 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None.

Pile Hole 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m

<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 12

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None

Pile Hole 13

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Modern Features</i>	None
<i>Finds</i>	None.

Pile Hole 14

<i>Dimensions</i>	3 m by 1.5 m
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	2.90 m
<i>Description</i>	0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
<i>Significant Features</i>	None

Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 15

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features None
Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 16

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features None
Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 17

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features Sandstone building foundations
Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 18

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features Sandstone building foundations
Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 19

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features Sandstone building foundations
Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 20

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features Sandstone building foundations
Modern Features None
Finds None

Pile Hole 21

Dimensions 3 m by 1.5 m
Depth of Excavation 2.90 m
Description 0.50 m of made ground overlying red sandy clay natural.
Significant Features None
Modern Features None
Finds None

APPENDIX 3

Context Record

Context	Structure	Description
001	Wall	Sandstone foundation wall, north to south aligned, measuring 2.50 m by 0.75 m. No construction cut identified, built off bedrock. Located on same alignment as [002]. Same as [002] and [004].
002	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, comprising a north to south aligned wall, measuring 5 m by 1 m. Located on same alignment as walls [001] and [004]. Same as [001] and [004].
004	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, north to south aligned, measuring 15 m by 1 m. No construction cut identified built directly off bedrock. Located on same alignment as [001] and [002]. Same as [001] and [002].
005	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, comprising an east to west aligned wall, measuring 1.75 m by 1 m. No construction cut identified, built directly off bedrock.
006	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, east to west, measuring 6.5 m by 0.80 m. No construction cut identified, built directly off bedrock. Located on same alignment as [008]. Probably formed foundation for tenement frontage.
007	Wall	Mortar bonded L-shaped wall foundation, forming the corner of a building. Measuring 6.5 m east to west by 2 m north to south and 0.80 m wide. No construction cut was identified, wall built directly off bedrock. Runs parallel to both [006] and [007].
008	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, east to west aligned,, measuring 5 m by 0.80 m. No construction cut was identified, wall built directly off bedrock. Located on same alignment as [006] and probably forms part of the same feature.
009	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, east to west aligned,, measuring 4 m by 0.80 m. No construction cut identified, built directly off bedrock.
010	Wall	Mortar bonded L-shaped sandstone wall foundation forming the corner of a building. Measuring 5 m north to south by 4.80 east to west and 1.20 m wide. No construction cut identified, wall built directly off bedrock.
011	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall, north to south aligned, measuring 3.50 m by 1.20 m. No construction cut identified and built directly off bedrock.
012	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, east to west aligned, measuring 12.0 m by 0.80 m. No construction cut identified and built directly off natural subsoil.
013	Wall	Mortar bonded sandstone wall foundation, comprising a corner of a building. Measuring 2 m north to south by 3 m east to west. No construction cut and built directly off natural subsoil.
014	Cut	Cut of large feature – possibly a well or sump, measuring 2.40 m by at least 3 m in depth. Filled by [014]. Cut through bedrock.
015	Fill	Fill of cut [014] comprising a red silty clay. No finds.

016	Cut	Cut of curvilinear culvert, measuring 7.5 m north to south by 0.8 m wide. The cut has steep-sloping sides running in to a flat base. Covered by a series sandstone slabs measuring 0.80 m by 0.80 m by 0.10 m in depth [017].
017	Fill	Series of sandstone slabs covering culvert feature, measuring 0.80 m by 0.80 m by 0.10 m depth.
018	Fill	Fill of culvert [016] comprising a wet, loose gravel and clay.
019	Fill	Sandstone lining of well feature, at least 5 courses high.

APPENDIX 4

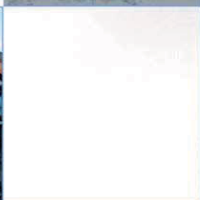
Drawing Record

Drawing No	Description	Scale
1	South-facing section through sandstone wall	1:20
2	North-facing section through culvert [016]	1:20
3	South-facing section through feature [014]	1:10
4	Plan of culvert [016] and feature [014]	1:20

APPENDIX 5

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	102 West Port, Edinburgh: Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20368
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Martin Cook
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NMRS: NT27SE 5195
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Post-Medieval
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2507 7318
START DATE (this season)	17 th March 2008
END DATE (this season)	18 th July 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A programme of archaeological monitoring was undertaken on groundworks associated with the re-development of a land parcel at 102 Westport, Edinburgh. A series of sandstone walls, a culvert and a possible well were identified, all thought to relate to the post-medieval occupation of the site. No other significant archaeological features or artefacts were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Kenmore Property Ltd
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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