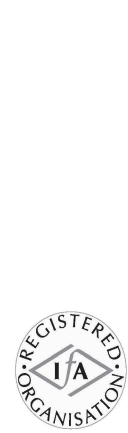


GUARD ARCHAEOLOGY



12 Grove Street, Edinburgh
Data Structure Report
Project 3597

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12 Grove Street, Edinburgh

Data Structure Report

On behalf of: Historic Scotland

NGR: NT 24342 73158

Project Number: 3597

Report by: Maureen C Kilpatrick

Illustrations: Gillian McSwan

Project Manager: John Atkinson

Approved by:



Date:

10/10/2012

*This document has been prepared in accordance
with GUARD Archaeology Limited standard operating procedures.*

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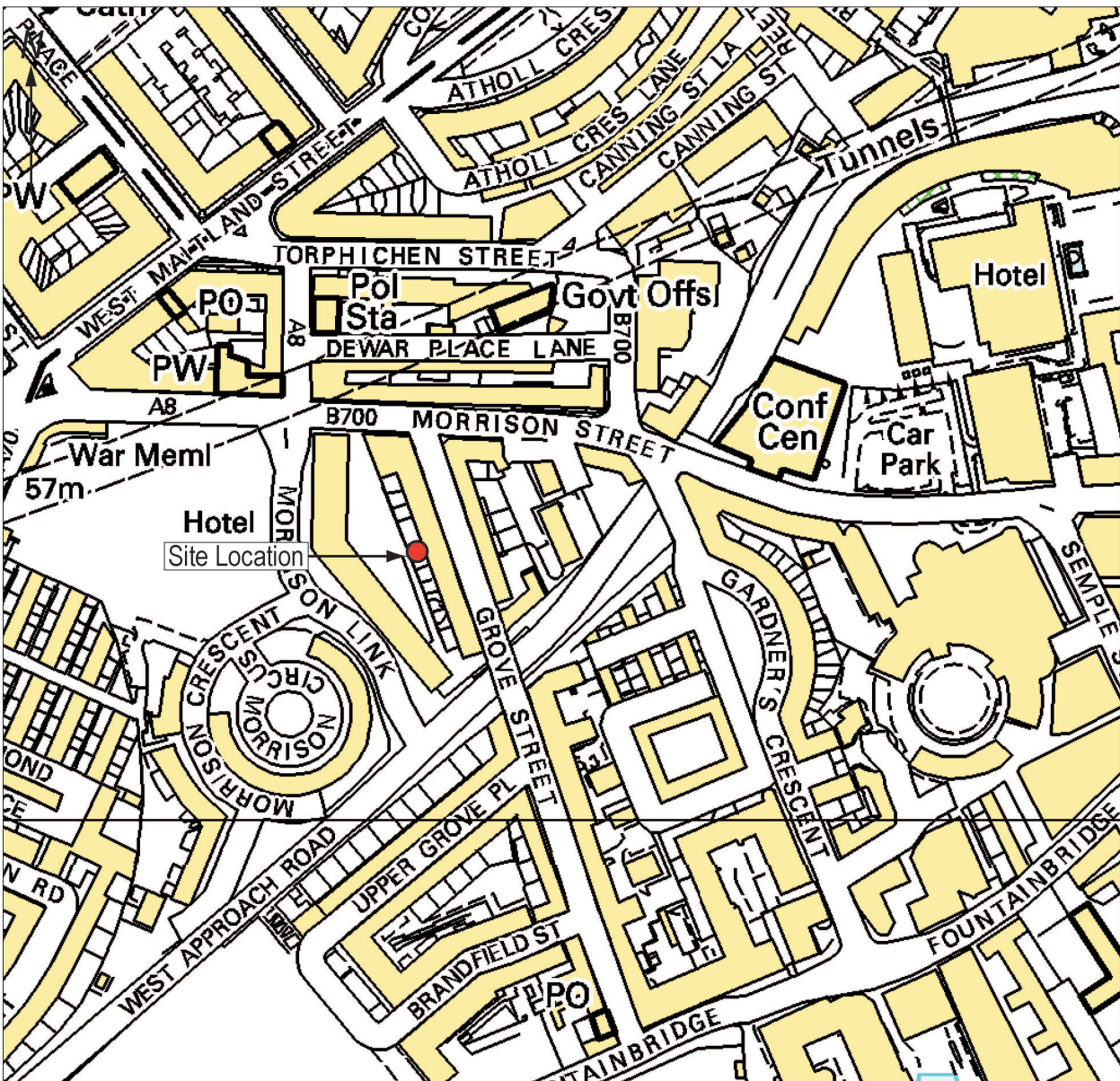
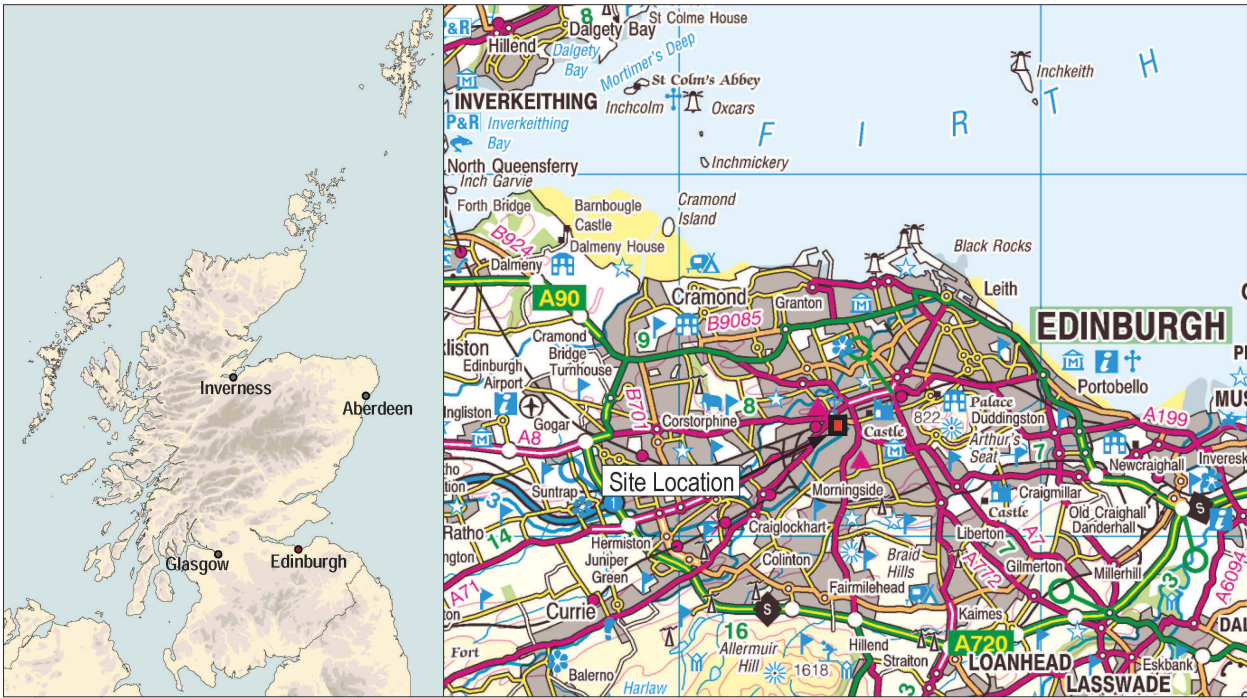


Figure 1:
Site location.

Executive Summary

- 1.1 An archaeological assessment was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Limited, on behalf of Historic Scotland under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract (HRCC), when human bone was unexpectedly discovered during landscaping work within the rear garden at 12 Grove Street, Edinburgh. Following its discovery the bone was initially recorded and collected by Lothian and Borders Police Force and assessed by the Virtual Anthropology Laboratory at Dundee University where it was deemed to be historical in date and not modern. Guard Archaeology was then commissioned by Historic Scotland to assess the site for further human bone and to establish whether other archaeological features and/or deposits were present on site. This work revealed only several small fragments of human bone within the upcast soil around the bone deposition site and two possible pits which were only observed in the section soil profiles next to and near the deposition site. The work was carried out in accordance with Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and Historic Scotland guidance.

Introduction

- 2.1 This report sets out the results of an archaeological assessment undertaken by GUARD Archaeology Limited on behalf of Historic Scotland under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract (HRCC) when the fragmentary remains of at least four individuals were uncovered during landscaping works within the rear garden at 12 Grove Street, Edinburgh. The work was undertaken between the 27th and 28th September 2012.

Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 3.1 The site is located within the rear garden of a residential property at 12 Grove Street, Edinburgh which is located within the Haymarket area of the city (figure 1). The house and its garden have recently been bought having been empty for a number of years and are located within a street containing both residential and commercial properties. The building and renovation work includes the landscaping of the rear garden which measures 7.7 metres by 8.7 metres square and is surrounded by a stone boundary wall on all sides, except the eastern side where the house is located. The garden is accessed via the house at basement level with stairs leading up to ground floor height where the garden is located. On visiting the site the eastern half of the garden had already been reduced to subsoil level with only the western half remaining at its original pre-landscaping height, which ranged from 700 mm to 900 mm higher than the reduced eastern side. The topsoil was covered by scrubby grass and several straggly bushes and contained numerous amounts of modern detritus including a gardening fork, plastic, stone and rubbish.
- 3.2 The underlying drift geology consists of Devensian Till, while the solid geology consists of Gullane formation sedimentary rock cycles, Strathclyde group type (British Geological Survey 1:50,000 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Archaeological Background

- 4.1 The house at 12 Grove Street was constructed as part of a small terraced development in 1822 and has B-Listed historic building status (HB No. 44037 and NMRS NT27SW.3849). However, John Kirkwood's map of 1821 (<http://www.nls.uk>) shows North Grove Street lined with buildings on both its east and west sides with the western side also containing enclosed rear areas which could suggest that settlement within this area was slightly earlier than the building of the present terraced houses at Grove Street, or indeed that they were built before 1822. Prior to this date the area appears as a fairly open landscape of fields and gardens with no buildings recorded within the immediate area of the present Grove Street site, although several maps such as Ainslie (1804) and Kirkwood (1817) show settlement along the main roadways. Within the vicinity of Grove Street are quite a number of cultural heritage sites, with many listed buildings evident. Many of these sites are related to the nineteenth century expansion of the City.

Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The general aim of the archaeological work was to assess the immediate area surrounding the bone deposition site for further human remains and to establish whether other archaeological features and/or deposits are present within the disturbed area.
- 5.2 The specific objectives were:
- To clean the present area of ground disturbance to establish whether further human remains and/or archaeological features/deposits are present;
 - To establish whether there is evidence within the disturbed area and soil profiles that may indicate that other archaeological or human remains are likely to be present;
 - To sieve the soil retained from the disturbed area for further human remains and finds.
 - To obtain material for radiocarbon dating.

Methodology

- 6.1 The disturbed area was carefully cleaned by hand to the surface of the subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.
- 6.2 The retained soil from the disturbed area was sieved by hand using $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch gridded sieves.
- 6.3 All on-site recording, written, drawn and photographic, was to the standards normally pertaining in archaeological fieldwork. Weather conditions for the work were variable with bright sunshine interspersed with heavy rain showers.
- 6.4 All features of archaeological potential were recorded and sampled for retrieval of any botanical remains and/or finds.

Results

The Garden Deposits



Plate 1: Pre-excavation of site.



Plate 2: Post removal of overburden.

- 7.1 Landscaping work had already reduced the eastern half of the garden to subsoil level prior to archaeological work commencing on site (figure 2). This subsoil consisted of a grey/pink, very stiff silt clay (008) that contained inclusions of sub-rounded cobbles and is consistent with boulder clay. The overlying deposits were still present in the western half and could be observed within the exposed section which was orientated north/south across the garden (figure 2). The location of the human remains was to the immediate east of this section line at the southern boundary wall (figure 2). Within the exposed section and immediately above the subsoil (008) a relatively shallow beige/brown silt deposit (003), which measured 120 mm in

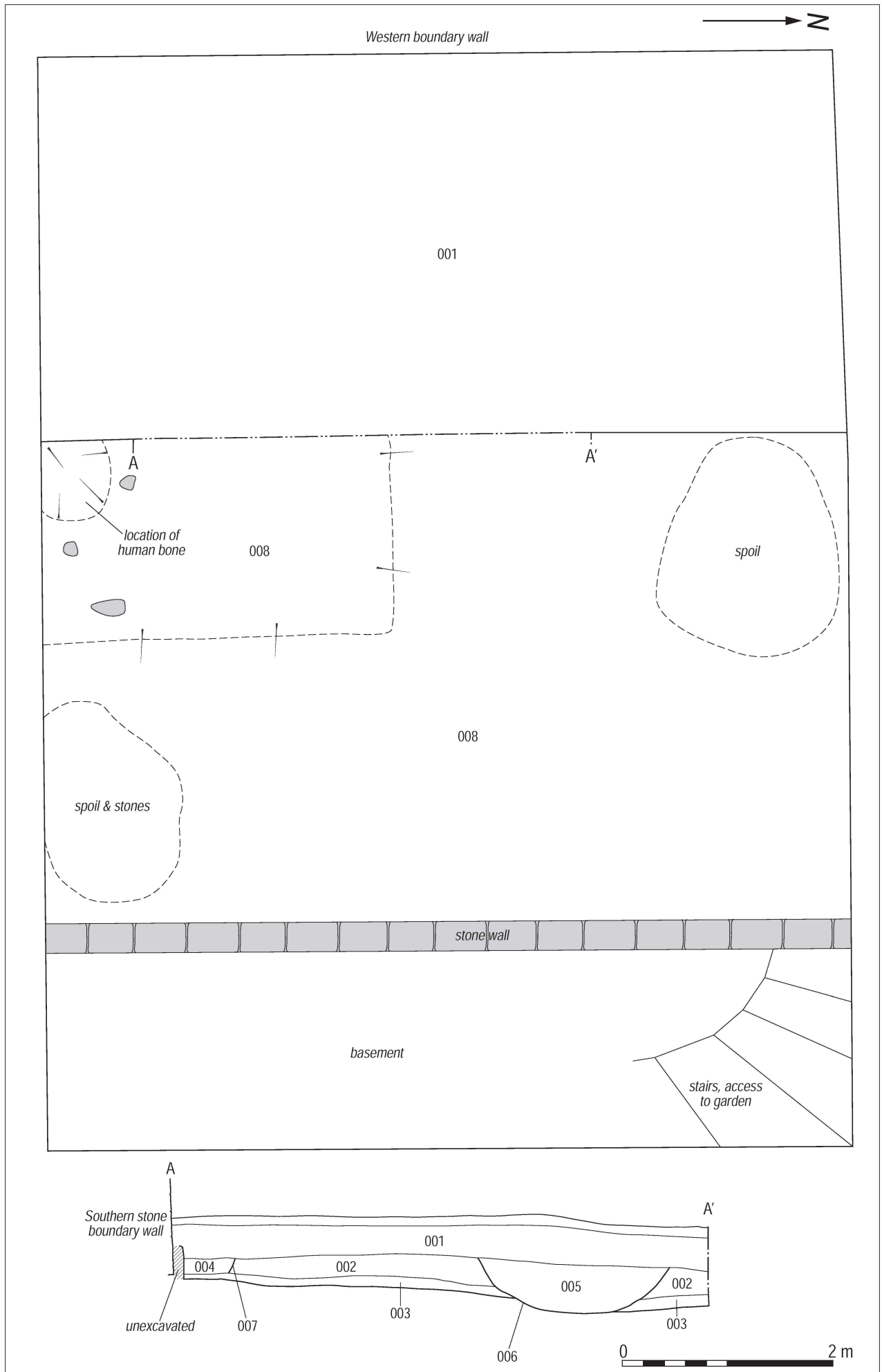


Figure 2: Plan of garden & East facing section of garden deposits.

depth was found. It appeared to go under the southern boundary wall suggesting that it was earlier in date and may have been an earlier plough/agricultural soil. Above this deposit was a moderately compacted dark grey clay silt (002) that contained inclusions of charcoal flecks and coal fragments. It measured 220 mm in depth and is consistent with an earlier garden soil deposit associated with the garden.

- 7.2 Cut into this deposit were two possible pits that were only observed in section. The first (007) was located at the southern boundary wall and measured 400 mm in width with a depth of 150 mm. The sides appeared relatively straight and the base flat. Unfortunately its length was unknown due to it being truncated at its eastern side during the landscaping works, while its western side remained within the section profile. Its fill consisted of a moderately compacted orange/yellow/grey redeposited silt clay (004) that contained inclusions of pebble sized stones. Two fragments of pottery were found within this fill and included the base sherd of a nineteenth century AD white earthenware vessel and a fragment of fourteenth – fifteenth century AD Scottish medieval red ware with a green glaze (SF 11) (Bob Will pers comm).
- 7.3 The other pit (006) was larger in size and was located approximately 2.5 metres to the north of pit 007 and again was only observed in section. This pit measured 1.8 metres in length and 500 mm in depth. Its width was unknown. The fill consisted of a grey/brown silt clay with inclusions of sub-rounded cobbles and coal fragments (005). The modern topsoil (001) sealed both pits and the garden soil deposit (002). It was comprised of a black brown clay silt with inclusions of plant roots and pebble sized stones. It measured 400 mm in depth and was topped with scrubby grass and straggly bushes.

The Bone Deposition Site



Plate 3: Redeposited clay 004 in section profile at human bone location.

- 7.4 The human bone was found at the southern boundary wall to the immediate east of the present section line where landscaping work ceased upon its discovery (figure 2). On first inspection the area that contained the bone appeared to be covered with shallow over spill from the overburden removal and trampled soil. Several very small fragments of bone, which included a human patella and vertebrae (SF 1-4) were recovered from this area during its cleaning. Once the overcast soil was removed the natural subsoil (008) was revealed. It appeared to contain a very slight depression on its surface, which measured 600 mm by 800 mm and according to the on-site workers this is the location where the human remains were found (figure 2). They also reported that the skull appeared to be face down and orientated east/west with the unattached mandible below and that the remains appeared to be contained within a clay deposit, which corresponds with fill 004 of possible pit 007. During the assessment work no bone was recovered from this fill although two fragments of pottery, one being medieval in date, were recovered (SF 11). No formal burial could be observed within this or the immediate surrounding area and at present it is presumed that the remains may have derived from the possible pit 007, which may have been truncated during the landscaping of the site.
- 7.5 Fifty-four rubble bags filled with the disturbed soil from the burial location were sieved for the presence of human remains and/or archaeological finds. Only two bags contained possible

human bone, one of which contained a clay deposit similar to 004 which could support the supposition that the bones derived from this fill.

Discussion

- 8.1 It appears likely that the bone found on site was disarticulated and represents the remains of more than one individual. No formal burial structure, such as a coffin or cist, was observed during the assessment work and it could suggest that the bone was not in its primary burial location. However, the slight dip within the natural subsoil deposit at the area next to the wall where the bones were found could suggest the presence of a cut for a possible burial. However, it was very shallow and could easily have been the result of the recent excavation work when the bones were removed from site. Conversely it could represent the eastern edge of the possible pit 007 which contained the redeposited clay (004). At present it is difficult to provide a satisfactory reason as to why the bones were found at this location and where they originated from and indeed their date. There are no recorded burials or burial sites within this area and pre-housing development the area appears very rural and agriculturally based.

Recommendations

- 9.1 The archaeological assessment work at 12 Grove Street, Edinburgh revealed no obvious burial structure or the presence of further human remains except those retrieved from the upcast soil. Due to the 'unknown' nature of these remains it is recommended that radiocarbon dating be carried out to provide a date for the bones, which may help provide information on why the bones were deposited at this site. It is also recommended that a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication be carried out. This will include osteological analysis of the skeletal remains to help establish the minimum number of individuals present within the assemblage, their age at death and sex if possible.
- 9.2 It is also recommended that further archaeological work, such as a watching brief, be carried out on site if ground breaking works continue due to the possibility of more human remains and possible archaeological deposits being discovered.

Acknowledgements

- 10.1 GUARD Archaeology would like to thank Rod McCullagh of Historic Scotland and John Lawson of Edinburgh City Council Archaeological Services. It would also like to thank Mr Riccardo Gallo and Josh MacKay and Alan. Administrative and technical support was provided by Jen Cochrane, Aileen Maule and John Kiely. The report was desk top published by Gillian McSwan. The project was managed for GUARD by John Atkinson. Assistance on site was provided by Alan Radley.

12 Grove Street, Edinburgh
Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices



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Appendices

Appendix A: Bibliography

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Appendix B: List of Contexts

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
001	-	Black/brown clay silt with inclusions of plant roots and pebbles. Moderate compaction and topped with scrubby grass. Depth 400 mm	Topsoil
002	-	Dark grey clay silt with occasional inclusions of charcoal flecks. Moderate compaction with a depth of 220 mm	Old garden soil
003	-	Beige/brown silt deposit, moderately compacted with a depth of 120 mm	Possible old plough/ agricultural soil
004	-	Redeposited orange/yellow/grey clay with inclusions of pebble sized stones. Moderate compaction	Fill of possible pit 007

Context No.	Area	Description	Interpretation
005	-	Grey/brown silt clay with stiff compaction and inclusions of sub-rounded cobbles and coal fragments	Fill of possible pit 006
006	-	Steep sides that slope onto flattish base. Measures 1.9 metres in length with a depth of 500 mm, width unknown	Cut of possible pit. Only seen in section
007	-	Sides straight with flat base. Depth 150 mm, width 400mm, length unknown	Cut of possible pit. Only seen in section
008	-	Grey/pink very stiff silt clay deposit with inclusions of sub-rounded cobbles	Natural subsoil

Appendix C: List of Finds

Find No.	Area	Context No.	No. of Pieces	Material	Description
1	-	U/S	3	H.Bone	Bone fragments including manubrium and hand phalange
2	-	U/S	8	H.Bone	Fragments and hand phalanges
3	-	U/S	1	H.Bone	Patella
4	-	U/S	6	H.Bone	Foot bones and fragments
6	-	001	1	Shell	Oyster shell
7	-	001	5	Ceramic	Pot sherds
8	-	001	5	Bone	Possible animal bone fragments and long bone
9	-	001	1	A. Bone	Long bone
10	-	002	2	Ceramic	Sherds
11	-	004	2	Shell	Sherds including 19th and medieval pot
12	-	U/S	6	Ceramic	Sherds
13	-	U/S	1	Glass	Clear glass sherd
14	-	U/S	11	Bone	Fragments
15	-	From sieving	8	Ceramic	Sherds
16	-	From sieving	11	Bone	Fragments including long bone
17	-	From sieving	3	Glass	Sherds
18	-	From sieving	11	Bone	Fragments including animal mandible
19	-	From sieving	7	Ceramic	Sherds
20	-	From sieving	8	Stone	Fragments

Appendix D: List of Samples

Sample No.	Area	Context No.	Size	Reason for Sampling				Application/Comments
				Pot	Bone	Lithics	Botanics	
1	-	001	1xL	x	x	-	x	Topsoil deposit
2	-	002	1xL	x	x	-	x	Garden soil deposit
3	-	003	1xL	x	x	-	x	Possible plough soil deposit
4	-	004	1xL	x	x	-	x	Redeposited clay fill of poss pit 007
5	-	005	1xL	x	x	-	x	Fill of poss pit 006

Appendix E: List of Drawing

Drawing No.	Area	Sheet No.	Subject	Scale
1	-	1	East facing section of deposits	1:10
2	-	2	Plan of rear garden	1:20

Appendix F: List of Photographs

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
1	-	-	Pre-excitation of disturbed area	NE
2	-	-	Pre-excitation of disturbed area	NE
3	-	-	Pre-excitation of disturbed area	SE
4	-	-	Pre-excitation of disturbed area	SE
5	-	-	Bone in upcast	E
6	-	-	Position of bone	SE

Frame	Area	Context No.	Subject	Taken From
7	-	008	Area cleaned of upcast soil	N
8	-	008	Close-up of bone in upcast soil	W
9	-	008	Close-up of bone in upcast soil	W
10	-	008	Area of 'raised' natural clay deposit	N
11	-	008	Area of 'raised' natural clay deposit	N
12	-	001-008	East facing section (oblique shot)	NE
13	-	001-008	East facing section (south end)	E
14	-	001-008	East facing section (south end)	E
15	-	001, 005, 006, 008	East facing section (central area)	E
16	-	001, 005, 006, 008	East facing section (central area)	E
17	-	008	Natural subsoil (cleaned)	E
18	-	008	Natural subsoil (East facing section)	E
19	-	008	Natural subsoil (East facing section)	E
20	-	001-004, 007-008	Close-up of poss pit fill	E
21	-	001-004, 007-008	Close-up of poss pit fill	E
22	-	001-004, 007-008	Deposits at southern boundary wall	NE
23	-	001-004, 007-008	Deposits at southern boundary wall	NE
24	-	001-004, 007-008	Redeposited clay poss pit fill)	NE
25	-	001-004, 007-008	Redeposited clay poss pit fill)	NE
26	-	008	Natural clay at bone location	E
27	-	008	Natural clay at bone location	N
28	-	008	Natural clay at bone location	N
29	-	003-004, 007	Close-up of post rmeoval of topsoil at poss pit 007	N
30	-	003-004, 007	Close-up of post rmeoval of topsoil at poss pit 007	E
31	-	003-004, 007	Close-up of post rmeoval of topsoil at poss pit 007	N
32	-	003-004, 007	Close-up of post rmeoval of topsoil at poss pit 007	E
33	-	003-004, 007	Close-up of post rmeoval of topsoil at poss pit 007	E
34	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil	NE
35	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil	NE
36	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil	N
37	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil	N
38	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil (closest to section)	N
39	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil (closest to section)	E
40	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil (closest to section)	SE
41	-	008	Slot through central area showing natural subsoil (closest to section)	N
42	-	008	Natural subsoil at location of bone	E
43	-	008	Natural subsoil at location of bone	E
44	-	008	Natural subsoil at location of bone	NE
45	-	003-004, 007	Post removal of 004 fill	E
46	-	003-004, 007	Post removal of 004 fill	NE
47	-	008	Post removal of 003 deposit	NE
48	-	008	Post removal of 003 deposit	E
49	-	008	Post removal of 003 deposit	NE
50	-	008	Post removal of 003 deposit	N
51	-	-	Post excavation of site	NE
52	-	-	Post excavation of site	NE
53	-	-	Post excavation of site	SE
54	-	-	Post excavation of site	SE
55	-	-	House to east of garden	W
56	-	-	House to east of garden	SW

Appendix G: DES

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	12 Grove Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	3597
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Maureen C Kilpatrick
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	GUARD Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Assessment
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SW 3849
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Terraced House, B-Listed Building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Human Bone
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 24342 73158
START DATE (this season)	27 th October 2012
END DATE (this season)	28 th October 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	--
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological assessment was carried out by GUARD Archaeology Limited, on behalf of Historic Scotland under the terms of the Human Remains Call-Off Contract (HRCC), when human bone was unexpectedly discovered during landscaping work within the rear garden at 12 Grove Street, Edinburgh. Following its discovery the bone was initially recorded and collected by Lothian and Borders Police force and assessed by the Virtual Anthropology Laboratory at Dundee University where it was deemed to be historical in date and not modern. Guard Archaeology was then commissioned by Historic Scotland to assess the site for further human bone and to establish whether other archaeological features and/or deposits were present on site. This work revealed only several small fragments of human bone within the upcast soil around the bone deposition site and two possible pits which were only observed in the section soil profiles next to and near the deposition site.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Probable post-excavation analysis
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland, Human Remains Call-Off Contract
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive will be deposited with the NMRS

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