

St Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief, Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Page \ Park Architects 20 James Morrison Street Glasgow G1 5PE
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 241 735
AOC Project No:	21990
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This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group St. Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh

The watching brief monitored the hand excavation of 11 geotechnical test pits associated with development works at the cathedral.

Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Page \ Park Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief at St. Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh, during the hand excavation of 11 geotechnical test pits. The site lies within the administrative area of the City of Edinburgh Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was prepared by AOC Archaeology Group and was agreed with CECAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken. The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and in accord with City of Edinburgh Council requirements as advised by CECAS.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred on NGR: NT 241 735 (Figure 1) within the grounds of the Victorian St Mary's Cathedral (NMRS: NT27SW240) Manor Place, Edinburgh.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The cathedral, a Grade A Listed Building (27441), is a significant ecclesiastical gothic revival cathedral, drawing on early gothic sources and constructed on a monumental scale.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impact deriving from the site investigation works and, should significant archaeological material be discovered and preservation of this archaeological matter *in situ* prove impractical, to prepare a mitigation strategy compliant with *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government February 2010) and *Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 A qualified and experienced archaeologist was present in all groundbreaking works associated with the site investigation works. A total of 11 small test pits were hand excavated at various locations across the site (Figure 2). They were hand excavated by hand using spades. A detailed record was taken including the size and depth of test pits and deposits found during their excavation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 The watching brief was carried out from 20th October to 24th October 2011. Overall, the weather conditions were good and good archaeological visibility was present throughout the evaluation. The various data gathered during the watching brief are presented as a series of appendices

- i) Appendix 1 contains the test pit summaries
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the photographic register
- iii) Appendix 3 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry

4.2 Generally, the test pits were excavated through topsoil averaging a depth of between 0.2 m to 0.3 m which overly up to 1.0 m of made ground. Neither archaeological features nor unstratified artefacts were found in any of the test pits.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered by the evaluation.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

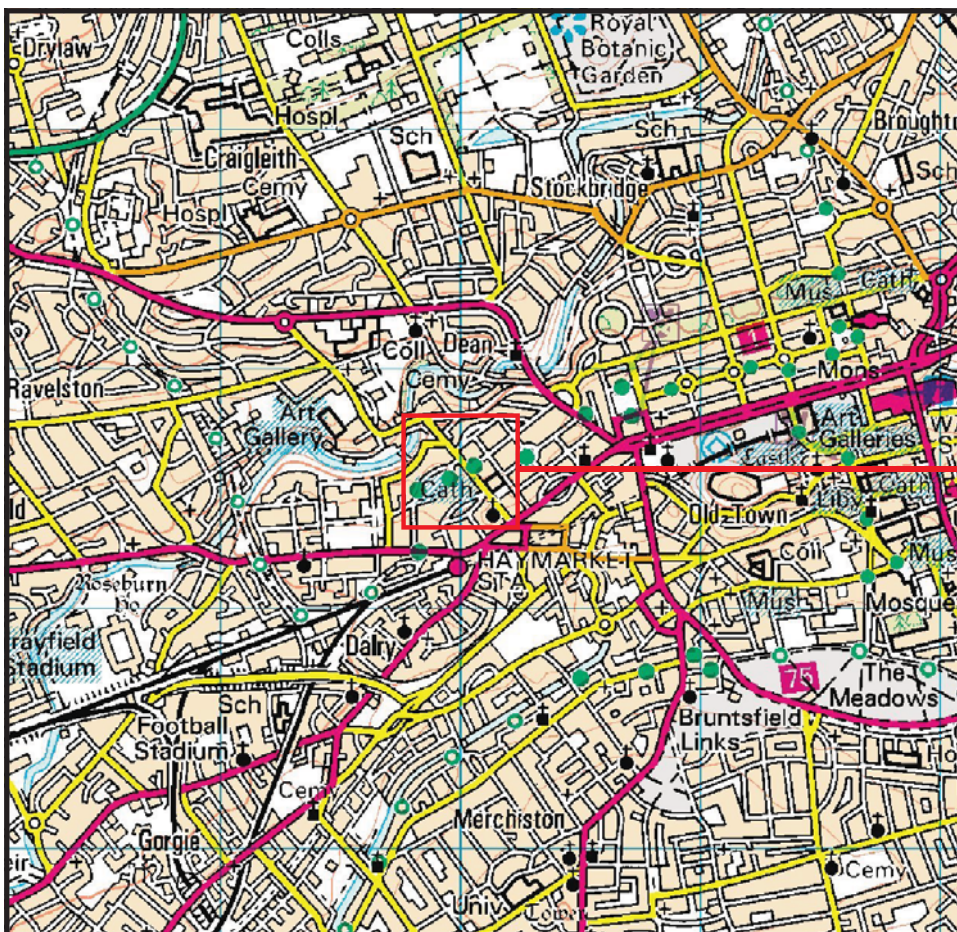
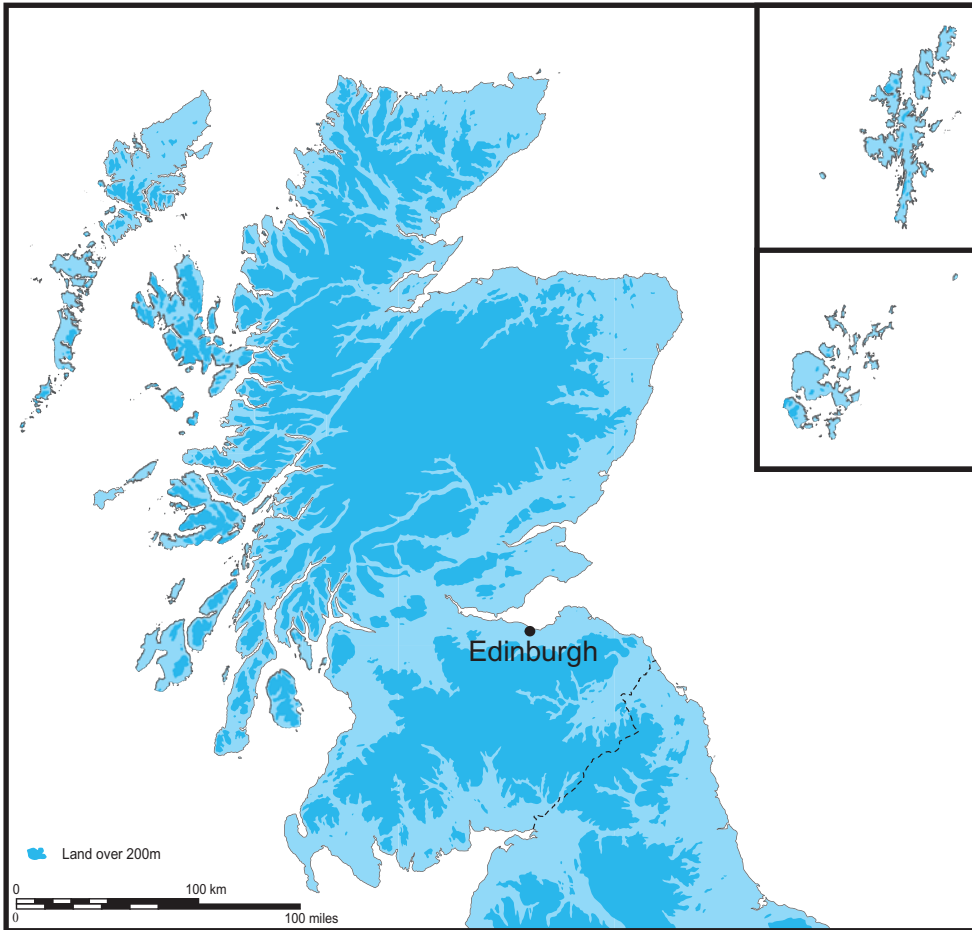
6.1 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AOC 2011 *St. Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation (17th May 2011)*. Unpublished AOC Project Design.

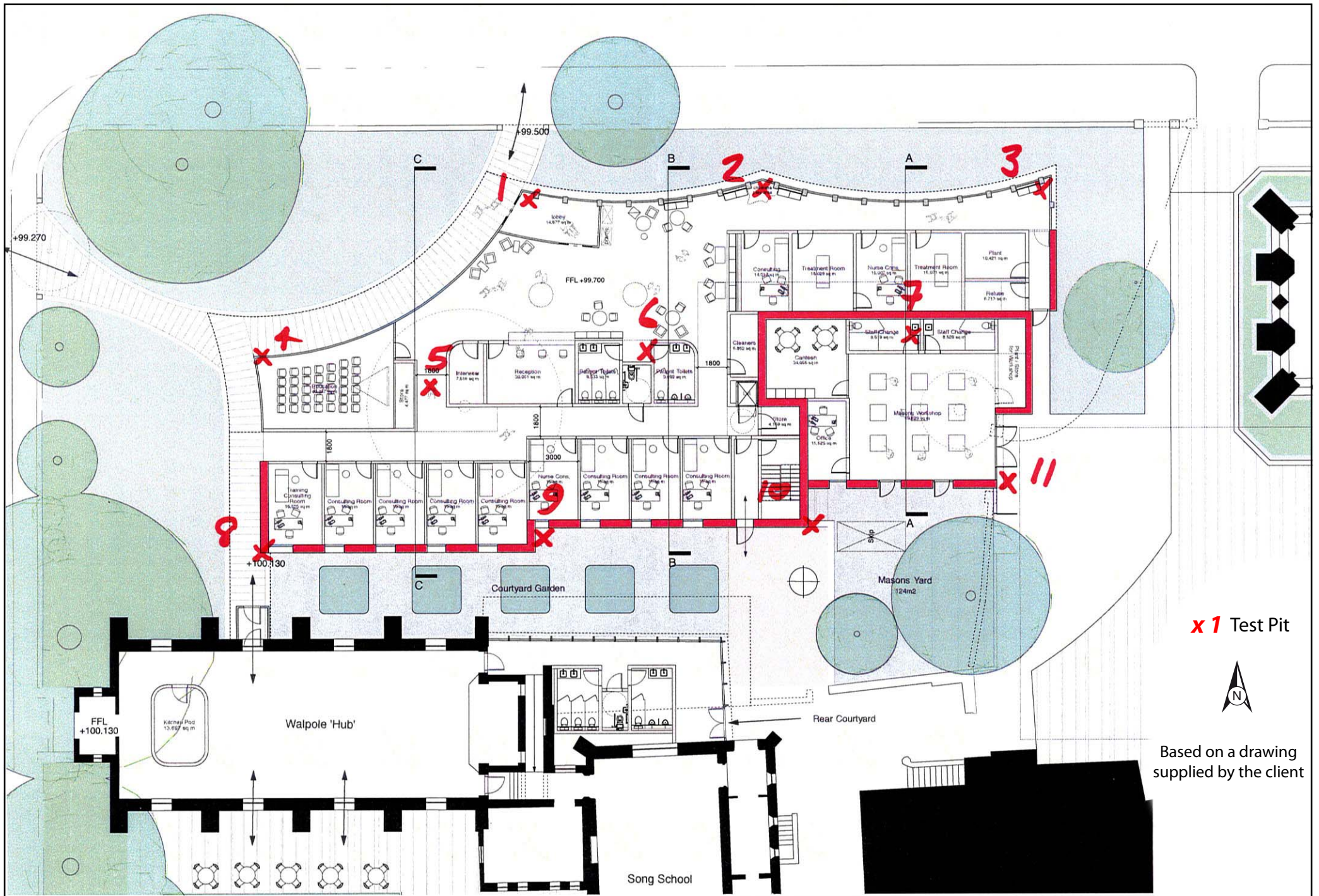
Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*. (February 2010)

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology*



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Figure 1: Location of the site at St. Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh



x 1 Test Pit



Based on a drawing supplied by the client

Figure 2: Test pit locations at St Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh

St Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh: Watching Brief, Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Test Pit Descriptions

Test pit 1

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.4 m by 0.35 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.14 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m of topsoil overlying 0.95 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 2

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.4 m by 0.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.12 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.4 m of topsoil overlying 0.8 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 3

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.4 m by 0.3 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.12 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.25 m of topsoil overlying 0.85 m of brown sandy silt
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.1 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 4

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.35 m by 0.35 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.1225 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3 m of topsoil overlying 0.63 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.9
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	Boulder clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 5

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.5 m by 0.45 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.225 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2 m of topsoil overlying 1.0 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 6

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.56 m by 0.4 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.224 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2 m of topsoil overlying 0.9 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 7

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.4 m by 0.36 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.144 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3 m of topsoil overlying 0.85 m of brown sandy silt
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.15 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 8

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.35 m by 0.35 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.1225 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2 m of topsoil overlying 0.85 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.05 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 9

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.43 m by 0.34 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.1462 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.3 m of topsoil overlying 0.9 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.2 m
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 10

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.4 m by 0.45 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.18 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	0.2 m of topsoil overlying 0.4 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	0.6
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

Test pit 11

<i>Dimensions</i>	0.4 m by 0.35 m
<i>Total Area</i>	0.14 m ²
<i>Depth of Topsoil</i>	None present, test pit dug through car park. 1.15 m of made ground
<i>Depth of Excavation</i>	1.15
<i>Significant Features</i>	None
<i>Other Features</i>	None
<i>Subsoil</i>	sandy clay
<i>Finds</i>	None

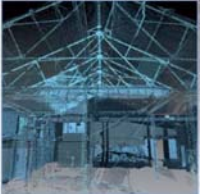
APPENDIX 2: Photographic Record

Digital images

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	-
2	Test pit 9	SE
3	Test pit 9	SE
4	Test pit 9 with drilling rig	NW
5	Test pit 9 with drilling rig	NW
6	Test pit 6	E
7	Test pit 5	E
8	Test pit 8	S
9	Test pit 4	E
10	Test pit 1	E
11	Test pit 2	N
12	Test pit 2 with drilling rig	SE
13	Test pit 3	N
14	Test pit 7	W

APPENDIX 3: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	St Mary's Medical Centre
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21990
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Erlend Hindmarch
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NT27SW240
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cathedral
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 241 735
START DATE (this season)	20 th October 2011
END DATE (this season)	24 th October 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology Group undertook a watching brief on the excavation of test pits during site investigations at St. Mary's Medical Centre, Edinburgh. In total 11 test pits were dug by hand and showed the top soil of 0.2 – 0.3 m in depth overlay up to 1.0 m of made ground. Neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts were encountered.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Page \ Park
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