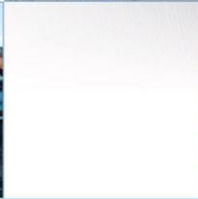


# Clifton Hall School, Newbridge, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

AOC 21893

Planning Reference No. 11/00865/FUL

29<sup>th</sup> July 2011



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Clifton Hall School, Newbridge, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report

**For:** Clifton Hall School,  
1a Clifton Road,  
Newbridge,  
Edinburgh,  
EH28 8LQ

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 10830 71040

**AOC Project No:** 21893

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**Date of Fieldwork:** 5<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011

**Date of Report:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011

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

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**Draft Report Stage:** Draft      **Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 2011

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## Abstract

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This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Clifton Hall School, Newbridge, Edinburgh. The archaeological works were initiated to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts from groundworks associated with the construction of a temporary assembly building.

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken on the excavation of foundation pads and service trenches on 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The works were conducted in agreement with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) and in accord with the principles of SPP (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994).

Twenty square foundation pads, varying in size from 0.8 m square to 1.3 m square, and three linear service trenches, running from the existing school towards the temporary assembly building were excavated by mini-digger. These groundworks were monitored by an archaeological Watching Brief Officer. The foundation pads revealed that the existing topsoil covered levelling and madeground deposits, most commonly comprising disturbed topsoil, with occasional dumps of rubble and ashy material. In the area of service trenches. No archaeological deposits or features were encountered.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 Archaeological monitoring was required by Clifton Hall School due to the construction of a temporary assembly building within the grounds of the school (Figure 1). The area lies within the administrative jurisdiction of the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC), who are advised on archaeological matters by Mr John Lawson of the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). Mr Lawson required the safeguarding of any archaeological remains that may have lain within the area of groundworks. The archaeological works were in accordance with the principles outlined in SPP (Scottish Government 2010) and PAN 42 (SOEnD 1994).

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 The site lay within the grounds of Clifton Hall School, which itself occupies the grounds of the Clifton Hall, a 19<sup>th</sup> century country house. Clifton Hall School is situated immediately south of the M8 motorway, less than 1 km south-west of Newbridge (Figure 1). The development area lay on the western side of the school's playing fields to the north of the main school buildings (centred on NGR: NT 1083 7104) and measured approximately 20 m by 15 m (Figure 2). It comprised a grassed area backing onto mature woodland.

### 1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the local Edinburgh City Council Sites and Monuments Record showed that the development area did not contain any known archaeological sites. However, the grounds of Clifton Hall School contain four known sites of archaeological interest, relating to both Clifton Hall country house and isolated findspots.

1.3.2 Clifton Hall is a Victorian country house currently occupied by Clifton Hall School. The main house along with its stables and outbuildings are all A-Listed and appear within the RCAHMS database (NMRS: NT17SW 39). The East Lodge (NMRS: NT17SW 44) also survives.

1.3.3 A Cinerary Urn (NMRS: NT17SW 20), comprising an unburnt clay vessel containing ashes, dating to the Neolithic period was found within the grounds of Clifton Hall, as was a gold coin dating to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century reign of Robert II (NMRS: NT17SW 84).

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological monitoring works were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the development;
- ii) to liaise with CECAS and the client regarding the recovery of significant archaeological remains and/or small finds being unearthed as to the most appropriate response in safeguarding these features either by preservation *in situ*, if at all feasible, or by archaeological recording;
- iii) to report on the results of the archaeological monitoring.



### 3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological works involved the monitoring by a Watching Brief Officer of ground reduction necessitated by the construction of the temporary assembly building. The initial groundworks comprised the excavation on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 of 20 square trenches for foundation pads, which varied in size from 0.8 m by 0.8 m to 1.3 m by 1.3 m. The depth of these small trenches was generally between 0.5 m and 0.6 m, with a single trench in the south-east corner of the assembly building area excavated to a depth of 1.0 m. The scraping of grass from between the foundation pads was not monitored, as it had been ascertained that this work would not involve the removal of all topsoil and made ground. In addition, on 13<sup>th</sup> July, the excavation of three linear service trenches from the assembly building area towards the school was monitored. Excavation was conducted by a mini-digger with a toothless ditching bucket of 0.3 m width.
- 3.2 All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices. A digital and Black and White Print photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

### 4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The monitoring work was undertaken in two visits by a single archaeologist in predominantly dry overcast weather conditions, with good archaeological visibility, on 5<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2011. The following should be read in conjunction with the data presented in Appendix 1, Figure 2 and Plates 1 and 2.



Plate 1 – Foundation pad excavations for temporary building from south

- 4.2 Twenty foundation pads were excavated over the footprint of the temporary building (Figure 2). The pads varied in size between 0.8 m square and 1.3 m square, and were generally between 0.5 m and

0.6 m in depth beneath the present ground surface, with a single pad (the south-easternmost) excavated to a depth of 1.0 m. The area presently comprises a hummocky area of playing field. Generally between 0.2 m and 0.3 m of modern topsoil, comprising dark grey sandy clay silt with moderate small stone inclusions, overlay between 0.1 and 0.4 m of levelling or madeground deposits (often not bottomed) which most commonly comprised fairly loose topsoil material, with occasional patches of rubble and ashy dumped material. The original, undisturbed and therefore more compact, topsoil was visible occasionally at a depth of between 0.37 m and 0.55 m below the present day surface, in particular within foundation pad excavations in the south of the temporary building footprint. This material was not bottomed. The occasional presence of frogged brick and 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century pottery within the deposits underlying the modern topsoil indicates that the playing field area has seen substantial dumping and movement of material in the recent past.



Plate 2 – Ashy dump in foundation pad on east side of building area from north

- 4.3 Three service trenches (Figure 2) were dug from the southern end of the location of the new assembly hall toward the school at various angles. The first was dug to a depth of 0.5 m and was 0.65 m wide and extended toward the main school building. Pipe debris in the spoil and sides of the trench indicate that it had been dug along the path of a previously existing pipe line. Nothing of archaeological significance was seen within this trench.
- 4.4 The second service trench extended from the new assembly hall on a more south-easterly route for 43 m and measured 0.3 m wide and varied from 0.75 m in depth for the first 20 m from the new hall to 0.6 m thereafter. The topsoil was seen to have a depth of 0.75 m within this trench. Where the trench left the grass area and was dug through the hard standing surrounding the main school building the remains of a small wall were located (Plate 3). This wall had been previously damaged by the laying of telecom cables. The remains were stone built and lime mortared and appeared to be



random coursed. They were located at 0.2 m below the present surface and had a height of 0.4 m and were 0.5 m wide.



Plate 3 – Wall in Service Trench 2

- 4.5 The third service trench extended from the new hall and ran toward an existing gas storage tank - a distance of 32 m and was dug to a depth of 0.6 m and 0.3 m wide. Nothing of archaeological significance was found within this trench.
- 4.6 Apart from the wall remains no other archaeological deposits or features were recorded during then monitoring works.

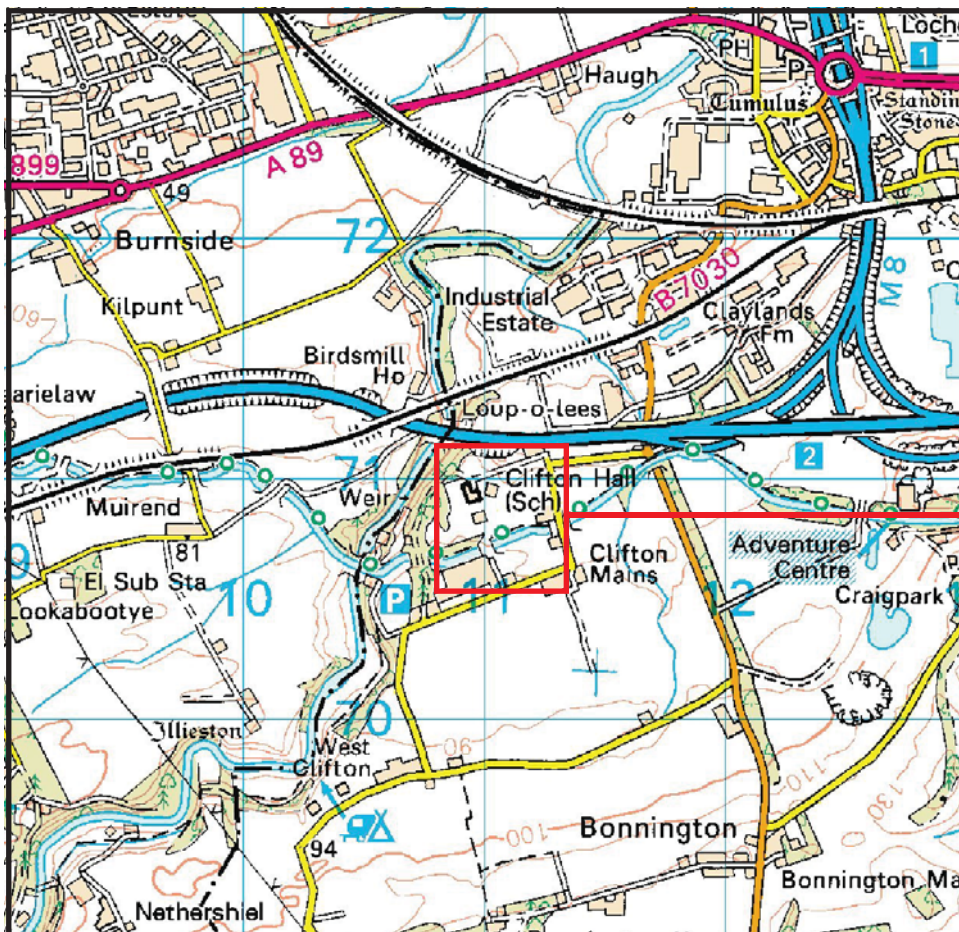
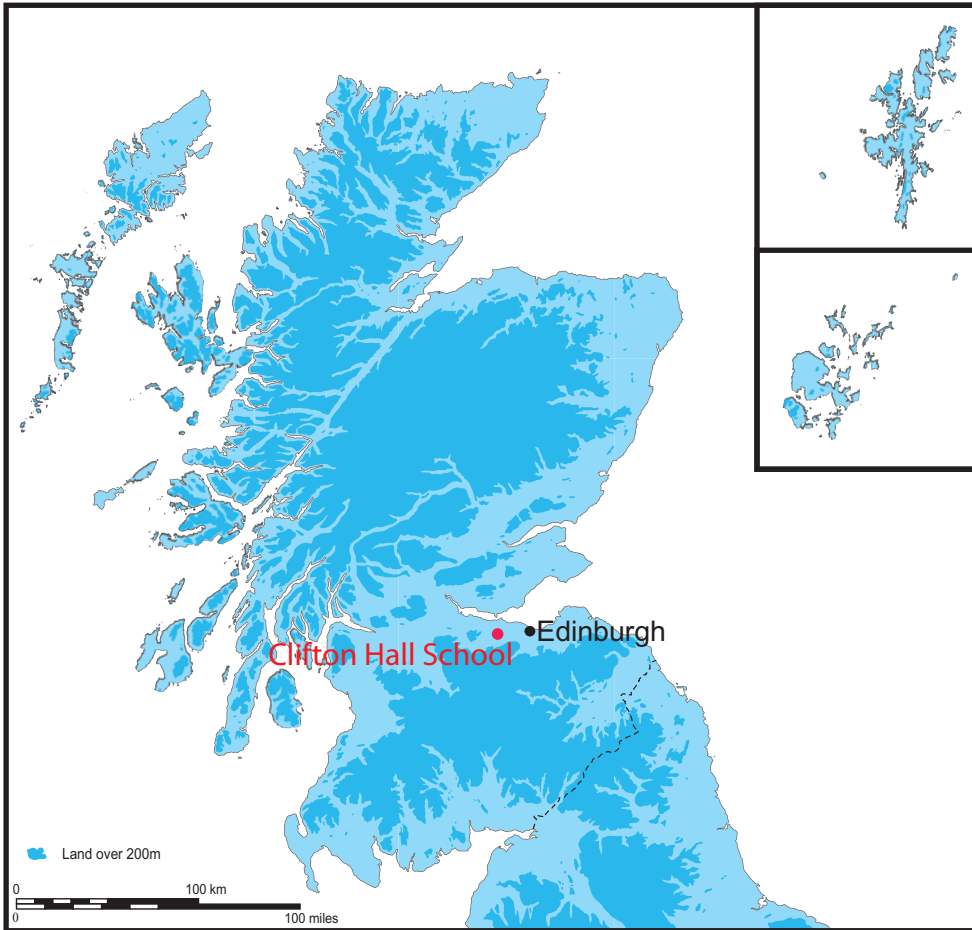
## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The deposits visible within the playing field area over which much of the groundworks were undertaken indicate that the area has been subject to substantial movement of material (most commonly topsoil) in the recent past. A single wall found in Service Trench 2 is the only archaeologically significant find; possibly the remains of a wall that once surrounded the lawn area to the north of the school buildings. No other archaeological deposits, features or small finds were encountered.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

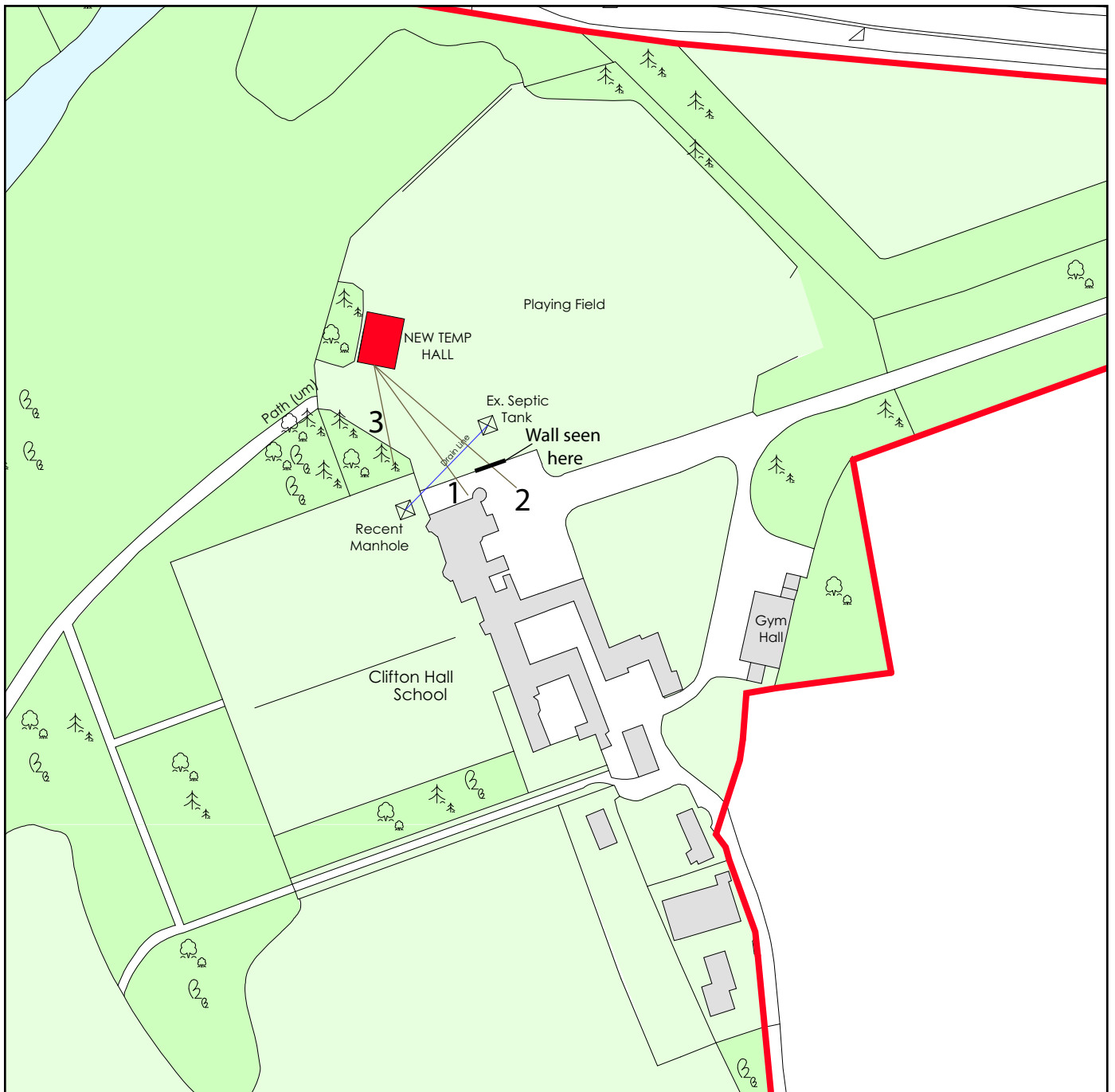
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Figure 1: Location of the site at Clifton Hall School



 Area of topsoil strip

 Site Boundary

 Service trench



0m      50m      100m




Figure 2: Location of topsoil strip at Clifton Hall School

# **Clifton Hall, Newbridge, Watching Brief: Data Structure Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

### Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Pre-excavation view of area	NE
3-4	Registration shot	-
5-6	Manhole cover to south of works	S
7-8	Foundation Pit X	S
9-10	Foundation Pit Y, showing compacted rubble	S
11-12	Ash and coal deposit in Foundation pit Z	N
13-14	Pit O excavated to 1.0 m depth	S
15-16	Post-excavation view of site	S
17	Foundation Pit J	S
18	Foundation Pit L	S
19	Foundation Pit B	S

### Digital Film 2

Frame	Description
1	General view of Service Trench 1
2	General view of service trench section
3	General view of Service Trench 2
4	Wall in Service Trench 2
5	General view of Service Trench 3

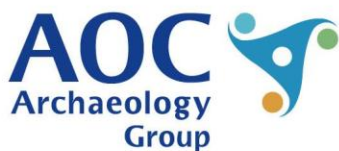
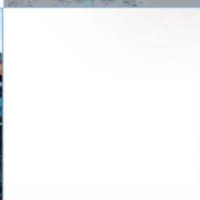
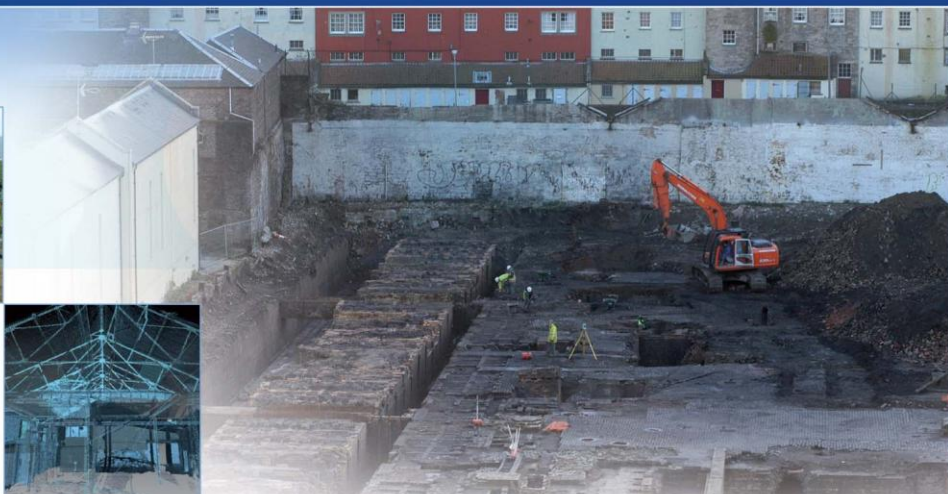
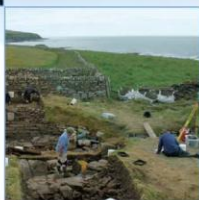
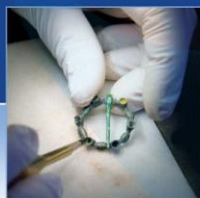
### Black and White Print Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Pre-excavation view of area	NE
3-4	Registration shot	-
5-6	Manhole cover to south of works	S
7-8	Foundation pit X	S
9-10	Foundation pit Y, showing compacted rubble	S
11-12	Ash and coal deposit in Foundation pit Z	N
13-14	Pit O excavated to 1.0 m depth	S
15-16	Post-excavation view of site	S



**APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND REPORT**

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Clifton Hall, Newbridge, Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 21893
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Mike Roy & Erlend Hindmarch
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT17SW 39
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Country House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 10830 71040
START DATE (this season)	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
END DATE (this season)	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological monitoring was undertaken at Clifton Hall School, Newbridge, Edinburgh on groundworks associated with the construction of a temporary assembly building.</p> <p>Twenty foundation pads, varying in size between 0.8 m square and 1.3 m square, and three service trenches were excavated by mini-digger, The remains of a small lime-mortared stone wall were found crossing one service trench No other archaeologically significant deposits or features were encountered.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Clifton Hall School
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