

26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh: Evaluation Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21994

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Planning Application No. 11/01996/LBC

18th January 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

26 – 31 Charlotte Square: Evaluation Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: Morgan McDonnell Architecture Ltd
7 Belgrave Mews
Edinburgh
EH4 3AX

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 2463 7375

AOC Project No: 21994

Planning Application No: 11/01996/LBC

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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 evaluation undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground at 26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

The remains of late 19th century walls were found overlying a buried soil within the western half of the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Morgan McDonnell Architecture Ltd. to carry out an archaeological evaluation prior to the redevelopment of a building at 26 – 31 Charlotte Square Edinburgh (Planning Application No. 11/01996/LBC). The development 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). The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principals set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2010) and in accord with City of Edinburgh Council requirements as advised by CECAS.
- 1.1.2 The objective of the archaeological works was to determine the existence of any buried archaeological remains within the development area by means of a programme of trial trenching. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2011) outlining the entire programme of archaeological works was agreed with CECAS in advance of the evaluation being undertaken.

1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The proposed development area is centred on NGR NT 2463 7375 (Figure 1) and lies within the back gardens of six Georgian Townhouses on the south side of Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. To the south side of the site are buildings fronting onto Hope Lane Mews.

1.3 Historical background

- 1.3.1 Charlotte Square is located within the New town of Edinburgh and together with the Old Town forms a World Heritage site. It is one of the finest collections of Georgian buildings in Scotland as designed by Robert Adam in the 1790s. As part of the continuing developments of the Edinburgh New Town, the Town Council commissioned Adam to produce a design for the Square, named after the King's wife and first daughter. Work initially started at the north side of the Square, with Nos 26 – 31 constructed in the first years of the 19th century, the construction dates often referred to in the historical record as 1805 - 1820. However, the buildings appear on John Ainslie's 1804 map as completed forming a terrace of buildings with garden plots behind with the Hope Street Lane Mews buildings represented as a linear building behind (Plate 1).

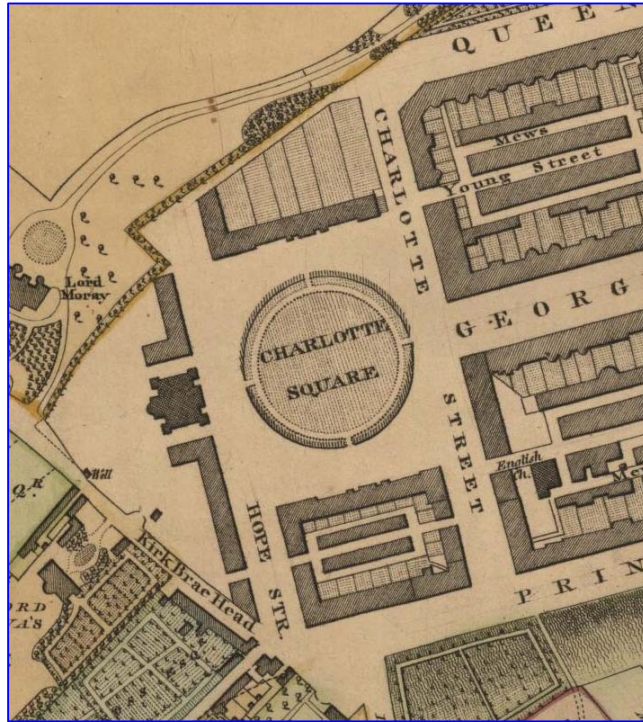


Plate 1: Extract from John Ainslie's map, 1804 showing Nos. 26 – 31 on the south side of the Square

- 1.3.2 The 1852 Ordnance Survey town map (Plate 2) identifies the buildings in detail identifying the divisions between each building and the bowed bays to the rear and garden plots. The Mews building is identified as five separate divisions. Comparing this with the 1894 Ordnance Survey map, little has changed in terms of the layout of the Charlotte Square buildings, although there has been later additions to the Mews building to the east side (Plate 3).
- 1.3.3 The houses were originally private residences, although into the 20th century, some of the buildings were used as offices. In 1996, Simpson & Brown Architects undertook a restoration of the entire suite of buildings with a view to their conversion into the headquarters of the National Trust for Scotland. Extensive renovations took place within the interior of the buildings, and the Trust remained in the buildings until 2011.
- 1.3.4 A programme of historic building recording assessment has been completed on the Hope Street Lane Mews building. This assessment was undertaken to provide an overview of the buildings and to identify the requirement for further historic building recording prior to the demolition of the building (AOC 2011a).

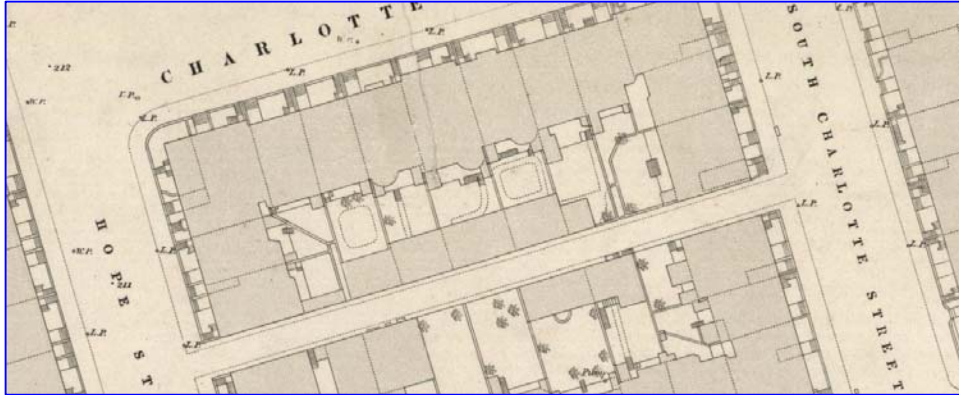


Plate 2: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1852

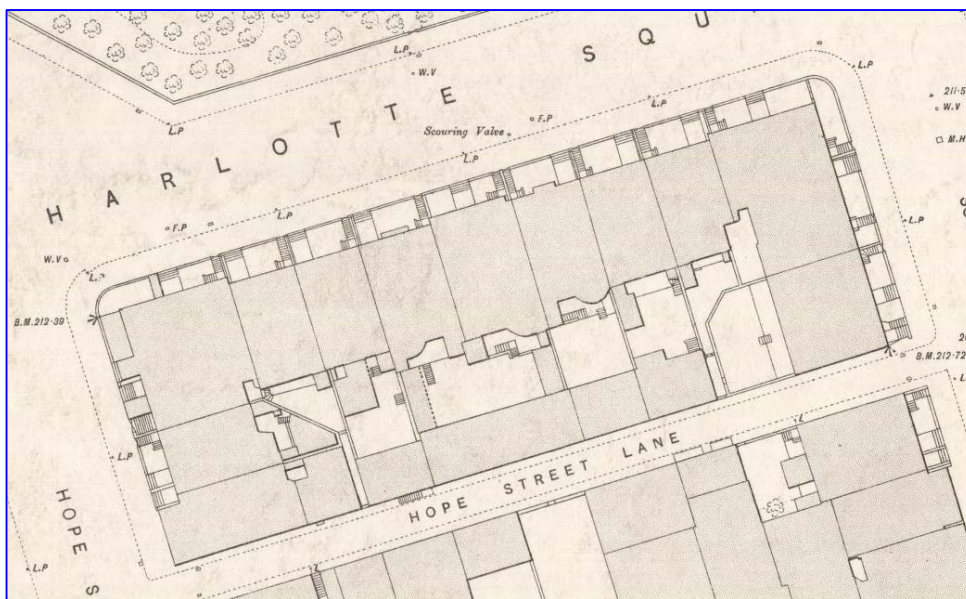


Plate 3: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1894

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation were:

- i) to determine and assess the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
- ii) to advise and implement an appropriate form of mitigation, such as, excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication given the infeasibility of preserving the archaeological material *in situ*, should significant archaeological remains be encountered.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The evaluation was achieved by means of the excavation of linear trenches using a mini-excavator equipped with a ditching bucket. Initially the trenching was to investigate a 10% sample of the area

equating to c.50m², but due to the preponderance of live utility services this was unobtainable and the sample was to 20 m² (Figure 2).

- 3.2 All machine excavation was conducted in shallow units/spits until the first significant archaeological horizon or natural subsoil was reached. All machine excavation was supervised by a field archaeologist.
- 3.3 The trial trenching was undertaken according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard operating procedures. The trenches were carefully backfilled on completion of the evaluation.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The various data gathered from the evaluation is presented as a series of appendices

- i) Appendix 1 contains the trench summaries
- ii) Appendix 2 contains the context register
- iii) Appendix 3 contains the drawing register
- iv) Appendix 4 contains the photographic register
- v) Appendix 5 reproduces the *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* entry

4.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between 10th and 13th January 2012. Weather conditions were dry and clear, allowing for good archaeological visibility throughout the evaluation.

4.2 Trench 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 and 3) was located in the west garden plot. This area was covered by turf and sloped toward the north dropping 0.7 m over a distance of 4 m. Directly underlying turf (101) was a deposit of made ground (102) consisting of loose mid brown/grey silty clay containing moderately frequent large angular stones and occasional bricks. The depth of this deposit was a maximum of 0.9 m at the southern end of the trench, reducing to 0.6 m in the north. This change in height reflected the slope of the ground surface. Cutting made ground (102) were the remains of a brick wall (103). This wall consisted of frogged bricks, laid as stretchers and bonded with mortar (Plate 5). The pointing of the brickwork was rough indicating that these were foundations. The wall extended from the northern end of the trench for a distance of 1.4 m at which point it turned 90° to the west and continued for a further 0.3 m into the trench section. The wall had been built within a construction cut (104) and stood to a height of 0.6 m above the natural clay (106) through which the construction cut had been excavated. The depth of the cut was in excess of 0.6 m and was back filled with a dark grey silty clay containing frequent stone rubble. Set within the surface of the wall were the remains of lead fixings reminiscent of iron railings.



Plate 4; Showing wall (103) (Taken from east)

4.3 Trench 2

4.3.1 The area in which Trench 2 (Figures 2 and 4; Plate 5) was excavated was covered by a surface of sand stone slabs below which madeground consisting of moderately compact mid brown sandy silt, 0.53 m thick was encountered (112). Evidence of a fragmented wall foundation were revealed underlying madeground (112). This feature consisted of two wall fragments, (107) and (108), and a spread of lime mortar (109). Both wall fragments were built from unworked sandstone blocks bonded with a lime mortar. Two courses of stone were visible in wall (107) at the eastern edge of the trench with only one course of (108) surviving. A large ceramic pipe ran below wall fragment (108). The mortar spread (109) is likely to be the last vestiges of this wall following almost complete removal of the wall itself. No construction cut existed for the wall which had been built on a buried soil (110) of moderately compact dark brown sandy clay. This deposit was 0.25 m thick and lay directly above the natural clay (110).

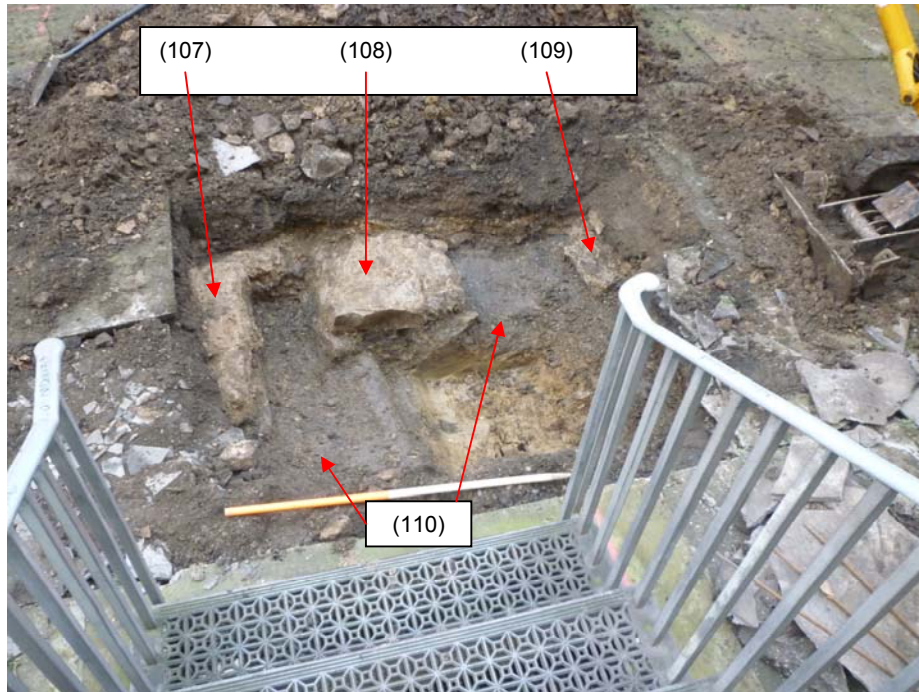


Plate 5; Detail of Trench 2 (Taken from north)

4.4 Trench 3

4.4.1 No archaeological features or deposits existed within Trench 3 but it did evidence the sequence of deposits encountered in Trench 2 (Plate 6). The overburden consisted of stone slabs over madeground to a depth of 0.38 m. At this depth a layer of crushed mortar 0.1 m in depth was found, which in turn overlay a deposit of buried soil 0.36 m similar to (110) below which the natural clay was found. No archaeological features were observed in this trench.

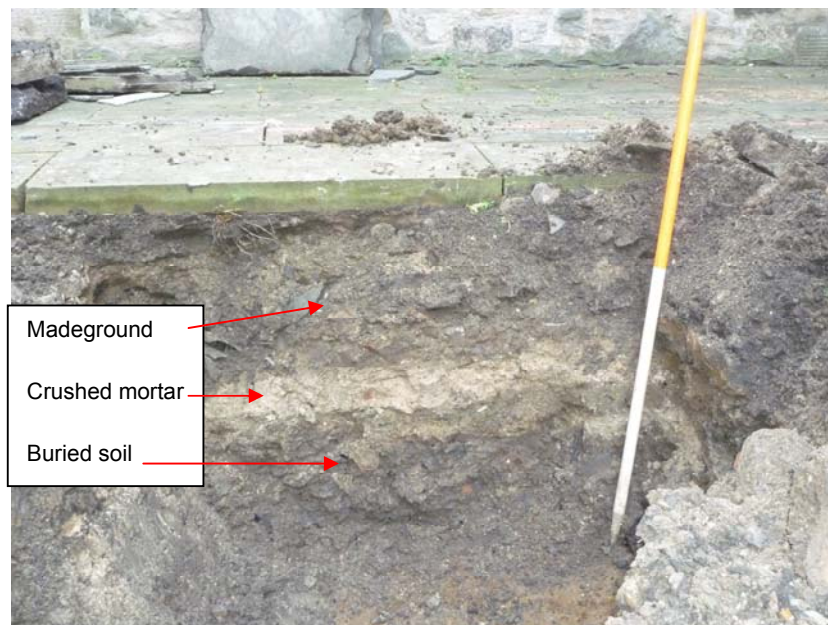


Plate 6; East facing section of Trench 3

4.5 Trenches 4 and 5

- 4.5.1 The area in which these two trenches were dug (Figure 2) consisted of tarmac and Type One hard core overlying madeground. No features, deposits or artefactual finds of any archaeological significance were found.

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The wall found within Trench 1 directly behind 26 Charlotte Square probably dates from after 1852 and forms part of a structure that seen on the 1894 Ordnance survey map (Plate 3). However, the remains found in Trench 2 cannot be correlated with historic mapping. Both these trenches contained a buried/garden soil below the excavated features and this soil continued through into Trench 3. This buried soil may provide the potential for further archaeological survival in these areas.
- 5.2 However, the natural clay in Trenches 4 and 5 lies directly below modern madeground indicating greater levels of truncation in the area to the rear of 30 and 31 Charlotte Square, potentially eradicating any archaeological potential.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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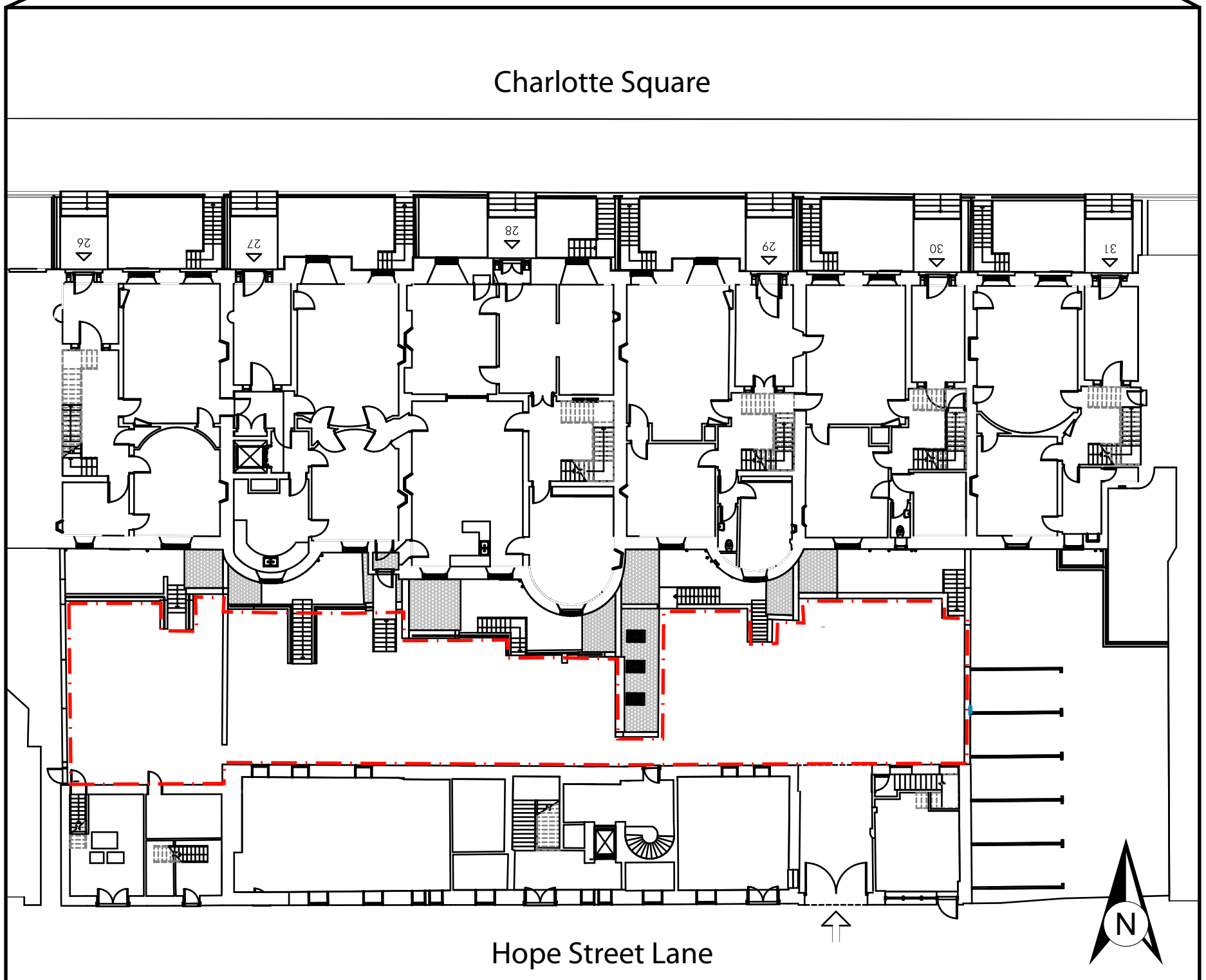
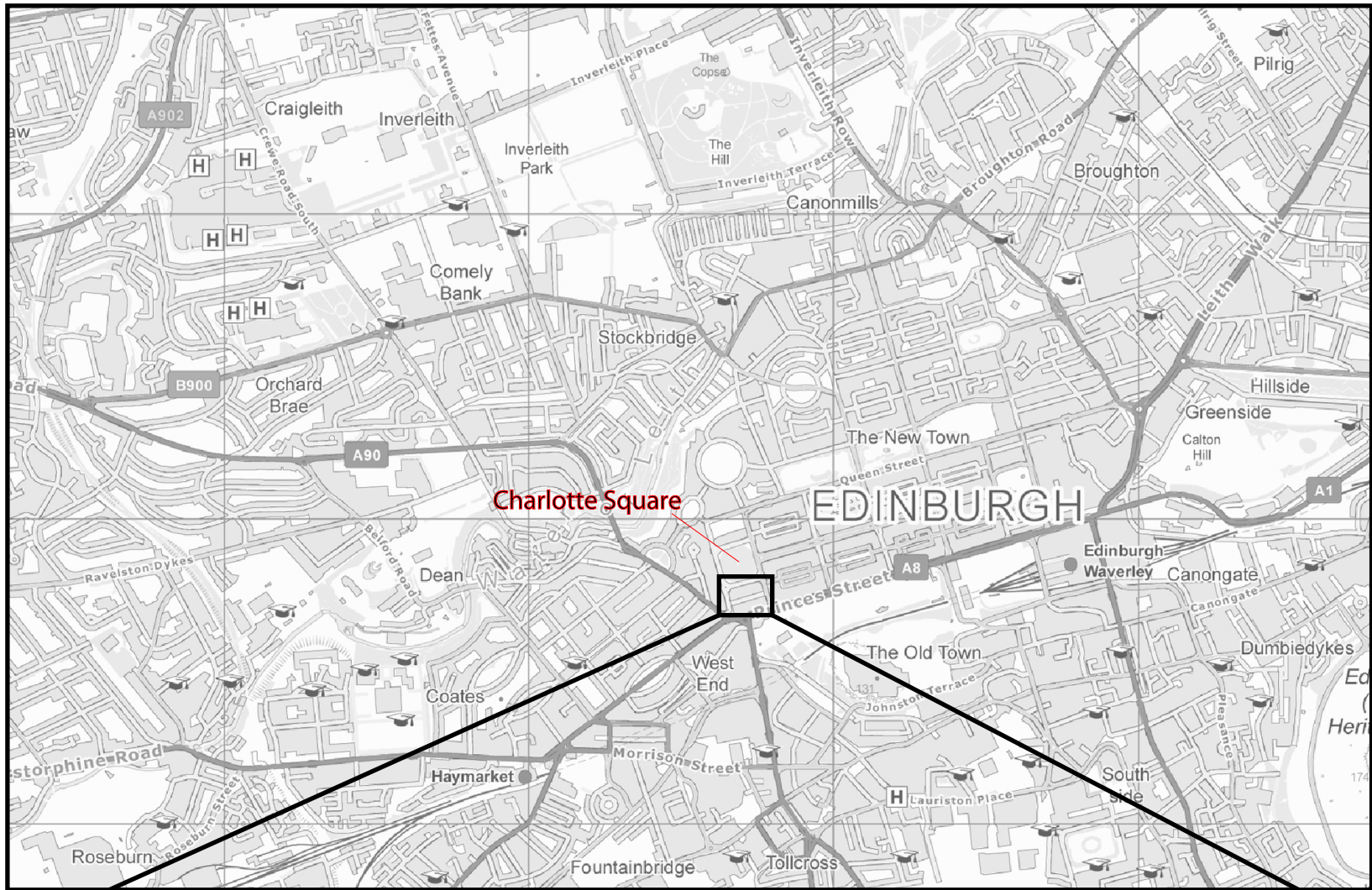
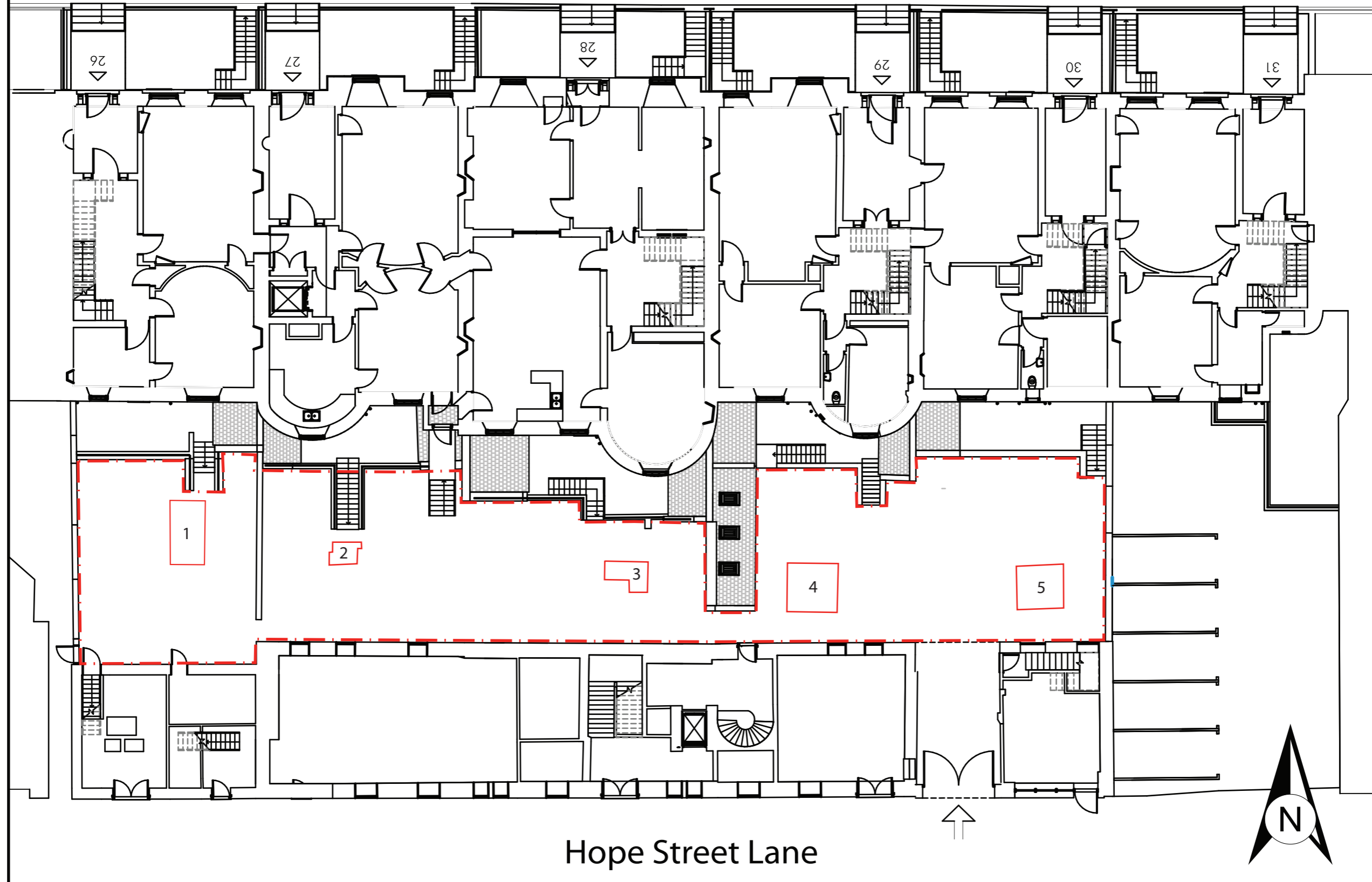


Figure 1: Site Location

Charlotte Square



Hope Street Lane

Figure 2. Trench Location Plan

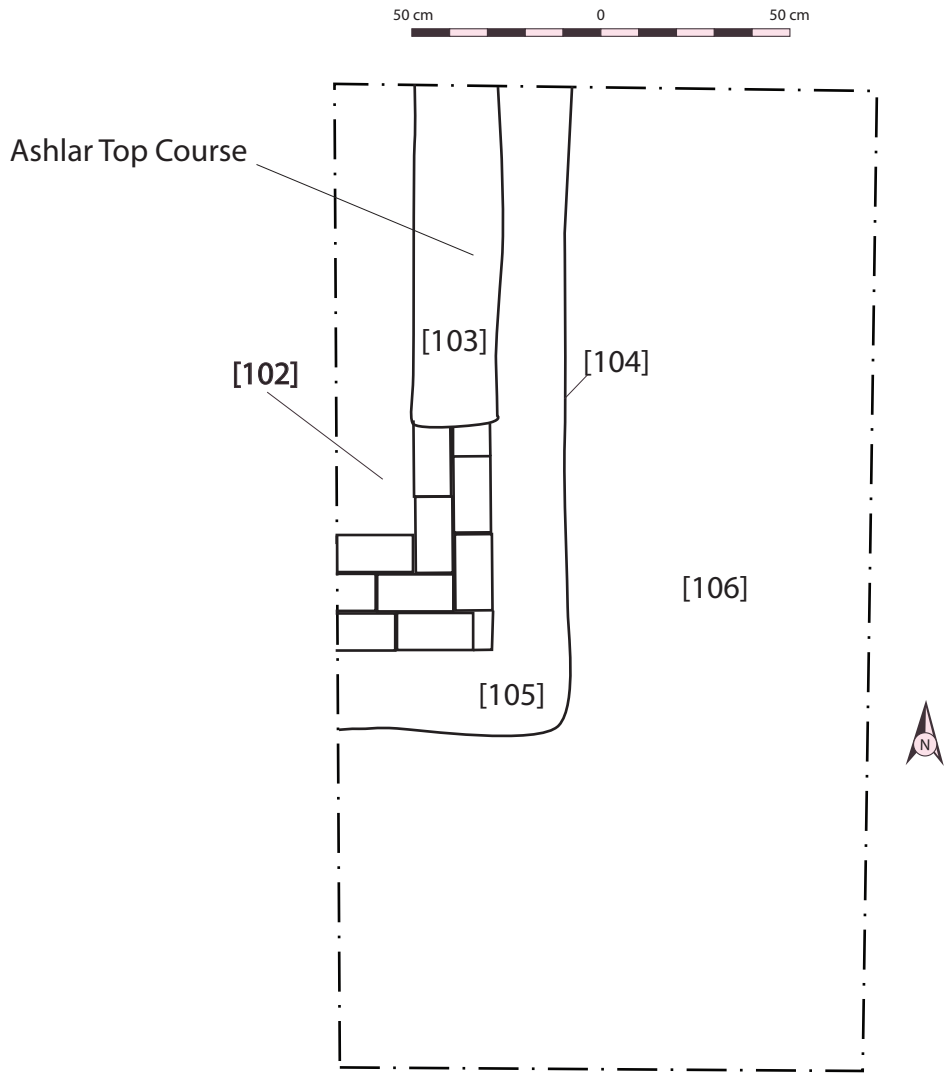


Figure 3. Detail of Trench 1

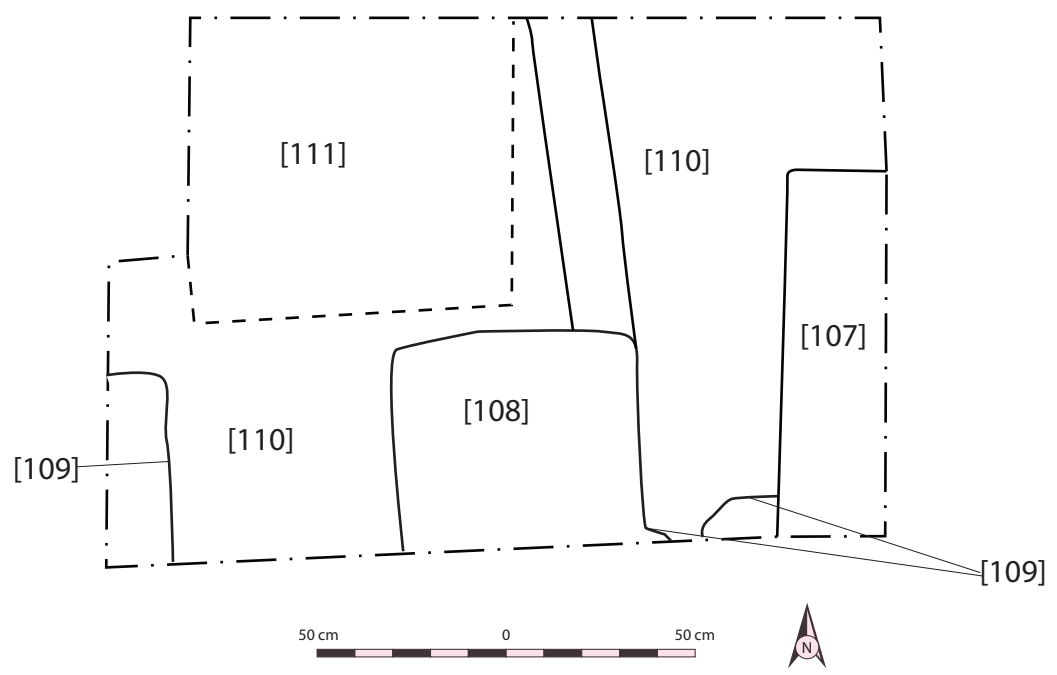


Figure 4. Detail of Trench 2

**26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh:
Evaluation Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Trench Descriptions

Trench 1

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 2.2 m by 1.5 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 3.3 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N/S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | 0.1 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.7 m at N; 1.1 m at S |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | Brick wall (103); Construction cut (104) for wall (103) |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Orange yellow clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | 19 th century pot and glass |

Trench 2

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 1.9 m by 2 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 3.8 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N/S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | Flag stones and madeground 0.53 m; Buried soil 0.25 |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.9 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | Wall Remains (contexts 107, 108, 109) |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact light brown/yellow clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 3

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 1.2 m by 2.1 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 2.52 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | E-W |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | Slabs and madeground 0.48 m; Buried soil 0.36 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 0.84 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact light brown/yellow clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 4

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 2 m by 2 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 4 m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N-S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | Tarmac and Type 1 hardcore 0.4 m; Madeground 1.2 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 1.6 m |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |
| <i>Subsoil</i> | Compact light brown/yellow clay |
| <i>Finds</i> | None |

Trench 5

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Dimensions</i> | 2 m by 2 m |
| <i>Total Area</i> | 4m ² |
| <i>Orientation</i> | N/S |
| <i>Depth of Topsoil</i> | Tarmac and crushed concrete 0.55 m; Madeground 1.14 m |
| <i>Depth of Excavation</i> | 1.7 |
| <i>Significant Features</i> | None |
| <i>Other Features</i> | None |

Subsoil

Compact light brown/yellow clay

Finds

None

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

| Context | Interpretation | Description | Stratigraphic Relationships | | Exposed Dimensions (m) | | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | | Above | Below | Length | Width | Height | Depth |
| 101 | Turf and topsoil | Moderately compact dark brown clay silt, containing occasional small stones. Fills whole trench | 102 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0.1 |
| 102 | Madeground | Loose mid brown/grey silty clay, containing moderately frequent large angular stones and occasional brick. Fills whole trench | 103 | 101 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 0.9 |
| 103 | Wall | Constructed from red frogged bricks lain in a stretcher fashion and bonded with mortar. Brick size 240 mm x 120 mm x 90 mm. Built within construction cut (104) | 104 | 105 | 1.4 N/S 0.3 E/W | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.6 |
| 104 | Construction cut for wall (103) | Linear cut on east side of wall (103), with vertical sides. Base not seen. Cuts natural clay (106) and filled by (105). | 106 | 103 | 1.5 N/S | 0.2 | N/A | > 0.6 |
| 105 | Only fill of (104) | Loose mid brown/grey clay containing frequent large angular stones. | 103 | 102 | N/A | N/A | N/A | > 0.6 |
| 106 | Natural clay in base of trench 1 | Compact yellow orange clay | N/A | 104 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 107 | Wall foundation | Built from a mix of sandstone and brick. Stones are unworked and two courses survive. Bonded with lime mortar. Wall is bonded with lime mortar and aligned N/S. Built on 110 with no construction cut seen. Associated with wall remains (108) and (109) | 110 | Madeground | 0.8 | 0.2 | N/A | 0.28 |
| 108 | Wall foundation | Constructed from unworked sand stone. Only a single course seen bonded with lime mortar. Wall lies above (110) with no construction cut seen. Associated with wall remains (107) and (109). Eastern continuation of (109) | 110 | Madeground | 0.66 | 0.52 | 0.06 | N/A |
| 109 | Wall foundation | Spread of lime mortar with small stone and brick fragments. | 110 | 108/107 | 1.9 | 0.6 | N/A | 0.06 |

| Context | Interpretation | Description | Stratigraphic Relationships | | Exposed Dimensions (m) | | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------|------------------------|-------|--------|-------|
| | | | Above | Below | Length | Width | Height | Depth |
| 110 | Buried soil | Moderately compact dark brown sandy clay containing frequent charcoal and coal fragments Covers base of trench | 111 | 109 | 1.9 | 1.6 | N/A | 0.25 |
| 111 | Natural in base of trench 2 | Compact light brownish yellow clay | N/A | 110 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 112 | Stone slabs and madeground | Sand stone flags over moderately compacted mid brown sandy silt. Covers whole trench. | 107; 108; 109 | N/A | 1.9 | 2.0 | N/A | 0.53 |

APPENDIX 3: Photographic Record

Black and white film 1

| Frame | Trench | Description | From |
|-------|----------|-------------------|------|
| 1 | - | Registration shot | - |
| 2 | Trench 1 | General Shot | W |
| 3 | Trench 1 | General Shot | W |
| 4 | Trench 1 | General Shot | N |
| 5 | Trench 1 | General Shot | N |
| 6 | Trench 1 | Wall (103) | E |
| 7 | Trench 1 | Wall (103) | E |
| 8 | Trench 2 | General Shot | N |
| 9 | Trench 2 | General Shot | N |
| 10 | Trench 2 | General Shot | W |
| 11 | Trench 2 | General Shot | W |
| 12 | Trench 3 | General Shot | N |
| 13 | Trench 3 | General Shot | N |
| 14 | Trench 3 | General Shot | W |
| 15 | Trench 3 | General Shot | W |
| 16 | Trench 3 | General Shot | W |
| 17 | Trench 4 | General Shot | E |
| 18 | Trench 4 | General Shot | E |

Digital images 1

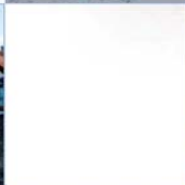
| Frame | Trench | Description | From |
|-------|----------|---------------------|------|
| 1 | Trench 1 | General shot | W |
| 2 | Trench 1 | General shot | W |
| 3 | Trench 1 | General shot | N |
| 4 | Trench 1 | General shot | N |
| 5 | Trench 1 | Wall (103) | E |
| 6 | Trench 1 | Wall (103) | E |
| 7 | | Registration shot | |
| 8 | Trench 2 | General shot | N |
| 9 | Trench 2 | General shot | N |
| 10 | Trench 2 | General shot | W |
| 11 | Trench 2 | General shot | W |
| 12 | Trench 3 | General shot | N |
| 13 | Trench 3 | General shot | N |
| 14 | Trench 3 | General shot | W |
| 15 | Trench 3 | West facing Section | W |
| 16 | Trench 3 | West facing section | W |
| 17 | Trench 4 | General shot | E |
| 18 | Trench 4 | General shot | E |

APPENDIX 4: Drawing Register

| Number | Trench | Description | Scale |
|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Trench 1 | Detail and location of trench | 1:20 |
| 2 | Trench 3 | Detail and location of trench | 1:20 |
| 3 | Trench 2 | Detail and location of trench | 1:20 |
| 4 | Trench 4 | Location of trench | 1:20 |
| 5 | Trench 5 | Location of trench | 1:20 |

APPENDIX 5: 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' Report

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | City of Edinburgh Council |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME | 26-31 Charlotte Square |
| PROJECT CODE: | AOC 21994 |
| PARISH: | City of Edinburgh |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Erlend Hindmarch |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | AOC Archaeology Group |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Archaeological Evaluation |
| NMRS NO(S) | NT27SW 519 |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Late 19 th century walls |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | 19 th / 20 th century ceramics (not kept) |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | NT 2463 7375 |
| START DATE (this season) | 10 th January 2012 |
| END DATE (this season) | 13 th January 2012 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | Historic Building Assessment (December 2011) |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | An archaeological evaluation was undertaken prior to the re-development land to the rear of 26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. The remains of late 19 th century walls were found together with a buried soil of unknown date. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | Historic Building Recording |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | --- |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Morgan McDonnell Architecture Ltd |
| ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR: | AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY |
| EMAIL ADDRESS: | edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com |
| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |



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