

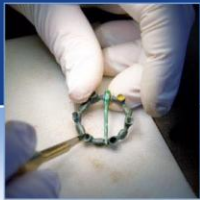
Hermitage of Braid, Edinburgh:

Archaeological Works Data Structure Report

OASIS No. aocarchaeology1-122268 (1)

AOC Project 22061

30th March 2012



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Abstract

Archaeological works consisting of a Watching Brief and Level 1 Historic Building Survey were required by The City of Edinburgh Council as a condition of planning consent during ground breaking works at Hermitage of Braid Walled Garden, Edinburgh.

No archaeological material was encountered during the Watching Brief. The Building Survey demonstrated the multiple phasing and construction of the perimeter garden wall.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 A programme of Archaeological works consisting of a Watching Brief and Level 1 Historic Building Survey was commissioned by The City of Edinburgh Council as a condition of planning consent during ground breaking works at Hermitage of Braid Walled Garden, Edinburgh.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011) and were designed to meet the requirements of Mr. John Lawson, City Archaeologist with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).
- 1.1.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (AOC 2012) outlining the programme of archaeological works was agreed with CECAS in advance of the works being undertaken.

1.2 Location & Site Background

- 1.2.1 The development site lay within the grounds of the 18th century Hermitage of Braid House (NMRS: NT27SE351), Edinburgh, in close proximity to the associated Doocot (NMRS: NT27SW28).
- 1.2.2 The site is underlain by solid geology of Carboniferous Sandstones. The drift geology is comprised of Pleistocene deposits of reddish brown clay tills.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:
- i)* to undertake a Level 1 Historic Building Survey of the Doocot and garden wall;
 - ii)* to determine the character, extent, condition, quality, date and significance of any buried archaeological remains within the proposed development area;
 - iii)* to advise and implement an appropriate form of archaeological mitigation, such as excavation, post-excavation analyses and publication, should significant archaeological remains be encountered that cannot be preserved *in situ*;
 - iv)* On completion of the works report on the results of the various elements of work outlined above within a single report.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

3.1.1 All ground breaking works associated with the development were monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. The ground-breaking was undertaken with a JCB excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The Watching Brief ceased when the required formation levels or clean natural subsoil were observed.

3.2 Historic Building (Level 1 Survey) of Walled Garden, Doocot and Northern Boundary Wall

3.2.1 An on-site photographic survey was undertaken in black and white print and colour digital using a 35mm SLR and digital SLR respectively. General views of the exterior of the Doocot and walls were taken from various angles, including some detailed shots of features such as windows, doors, blocked features, evidence for phasing, etc. A running register of photographs was made on site and are included in the final report as an appendix below.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological works were undertaken between 23rd February and 6th March 2012. Overall weather conditions were good rendering good archaeological visibility throughout.

4.2 Archaeological Watching Brief

4.2.1 Three trenches (measuring 20 m by 2 m) were positioned east to west on the south-facing slope of the walled garden across the frontage of the Doocot (Figure 2). The trenches formed the footings for revetments of the slope in the creation of a new garden layout. All three trenches were excavated to a depth of 0.75 m. These excavations revealed a surprisingly thin top-soil up to 0.20 m in depth, which in turn overlay a heavily bioturbated natural subsoil of pale brown sandy silt. A single rubble field drain aligned north to south was observed in Trench 1. No archaeologically significant material was observed.



Plate 1: Trench 1 from South-west

4.3 Historic Building recording (Level 1)

4.3.1 The Doocot

As shown in Appendix 1 the Doocot is constructed of fashioned sandstone blocks mortared with limestone. Modern repairs were visible to the south-west corner of the building with obvious re-pointing of the stonework on both the frontage and western side of the building.



Plate 2: Doocot Front Elevation from South-west



Plate 3: Doocot Western Elevation from South-west



Plate 4: Doocot Rear Elevation from North



Plate 5: Doocot Roof from South

4.3.2 Wall 1

The original wall surrounding the garden has undergone significant modifications over time. Across the northern boundary of the site the wall has been largely replaced by Victorian walls (Walls 2 & 3). The wall reaches a maximum of 2 m in height along the eastern boundary and is constructed of roughly fashioned irregular sandstone blocks with some sub-angular elements. The wall is lime-mortared and a rubble core is visible in areas of significant truncation.



Plate 6: Wall 1 north-east corner from South-west

In the north-eastern corner of the wall there survives a 1.0 m wide entrance four courses in height (1.25 m), constructed of well fashioned sandstone blocks (0.30 m by 0.50 m in size). Some decorative detail survives.



Plate 7: Wall 1 Remains of entrance from west

Midway along the eastern boundary the wall has been truncated to ground level and now forms part of an existing walking trail through the garden.

It is likely that the wall along the southern and western boundaries has also been extensively refashioned as capstones have been added. The wall here only reaches 1.25 m in height.



Plate 8: Wall 1 Western Boundary



Plate 9: Wall 1 Main Entrance from North

4.3.3 Wall 2

The original wall surrounding the garden has undergone significant modifications over time. Across the northern boundary the original wall [Wall 1] has been largely replaced by a large Victorian wall 3.30 m in height. This consists of large regular sandstone blocks (0.40 m by 0.25 m). The wall is buttressed every 4.5 m. Though the buttresses do not appear keyed in to the wall. Wall 2 abuts fragments of Wall 1 in both the north-west and north-east corners.



Plate 10: Remnant Wall 1 abutting Walls 2 & 3 from South

4.3.5 Wall 3

This is another probable Victorian wall again forming the northern boundary of the site within the north-west corner. The segment of wall is 7.0 m in length and is keyed into a surviving one metre remnant of Wall 1. The wall is also cemented into Wall 2. Wall 3 is 2.2 m in height and constructed of regular sandstone blocks (0.40 m by 0.10 m). There is some infilling of slate towards the top of the wall.

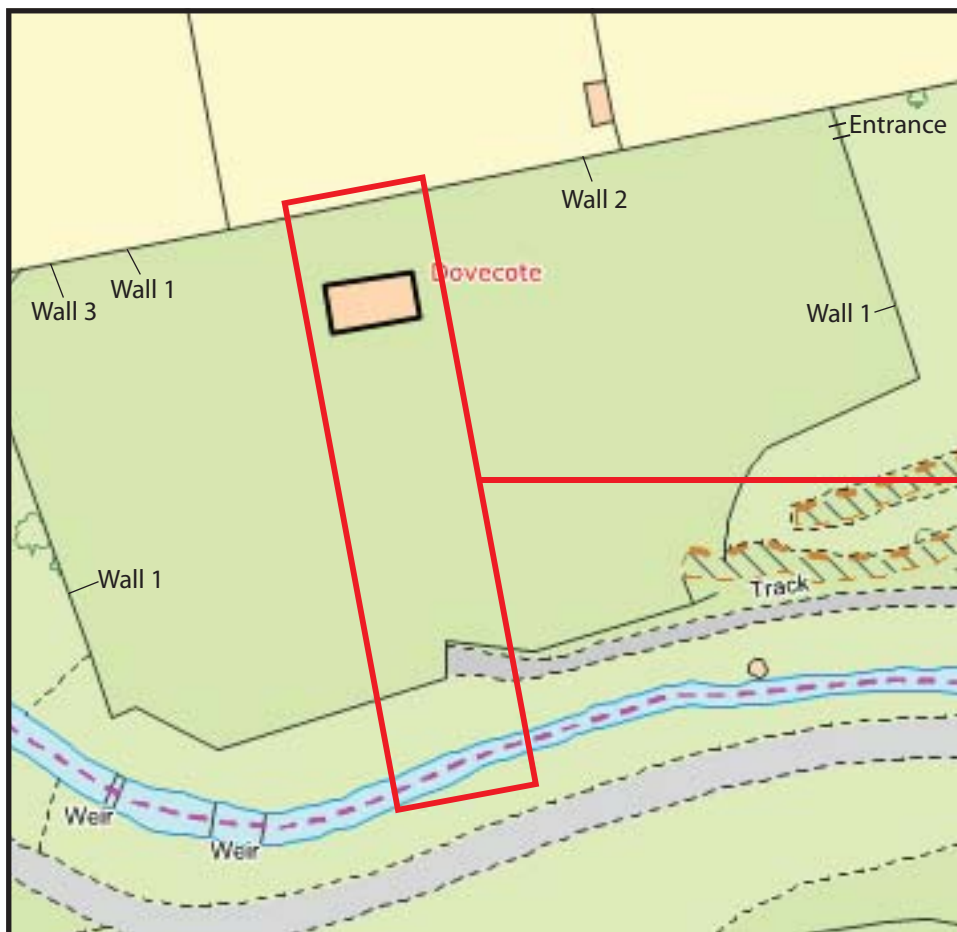
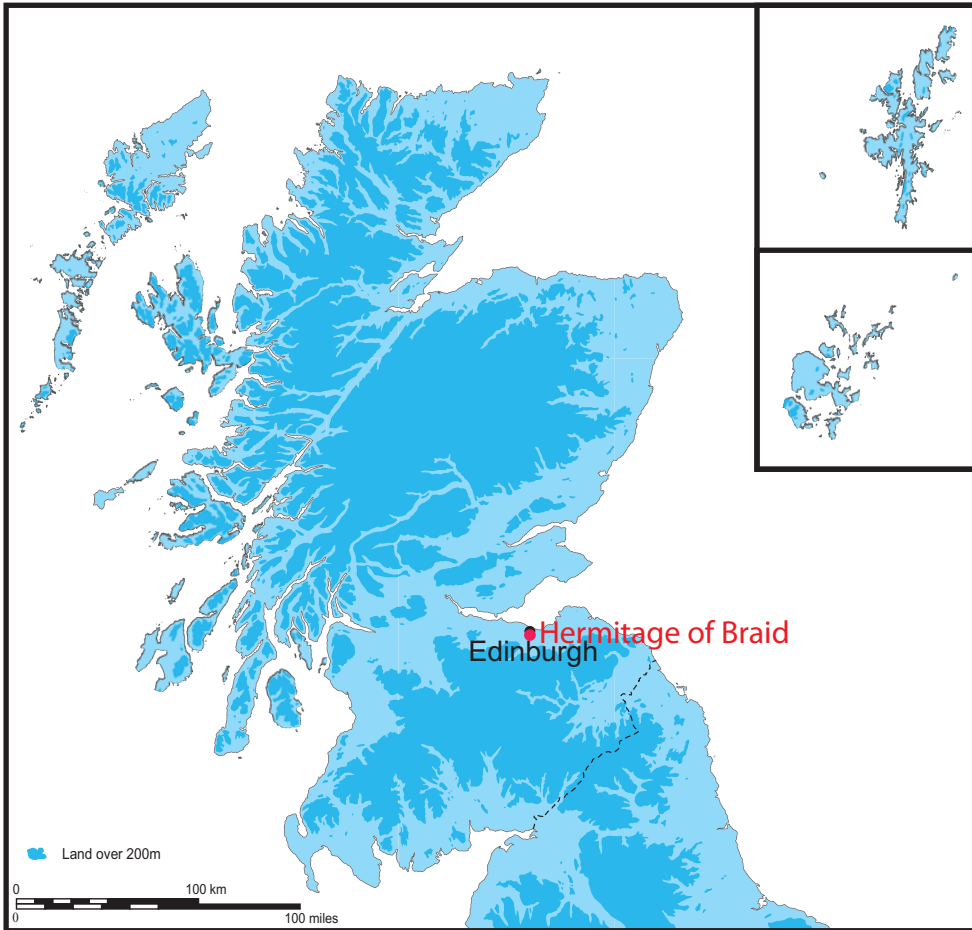
5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The archaeological Watching Brief revealed neither significant archaeological features nor artefacts. The Historic Building Survey assessed the current state of the Doocot and the walls surrounding the garden. The original wall survives intact along the southern and western boundaries albeit with significant modification. Along the northern boundary the wall has been largely replaced by Victorian walls leaving only two small fragments of the original structure. To the east truncation has created a large gap which is used as a modern trail. An original entrance though in poor repair can still be observed set in the north-east corner.
- 5.2 No further archaeological work is considered necessary. This recommendation will require ratification by Mr John Lawson, City of Edinburgh archaeologist on behalf of City of Edinburgh Council.

6 REFERENCES

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

Scottish Government 2011 *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology*.



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Figure 1: Location of the site at Hermitage of Braid

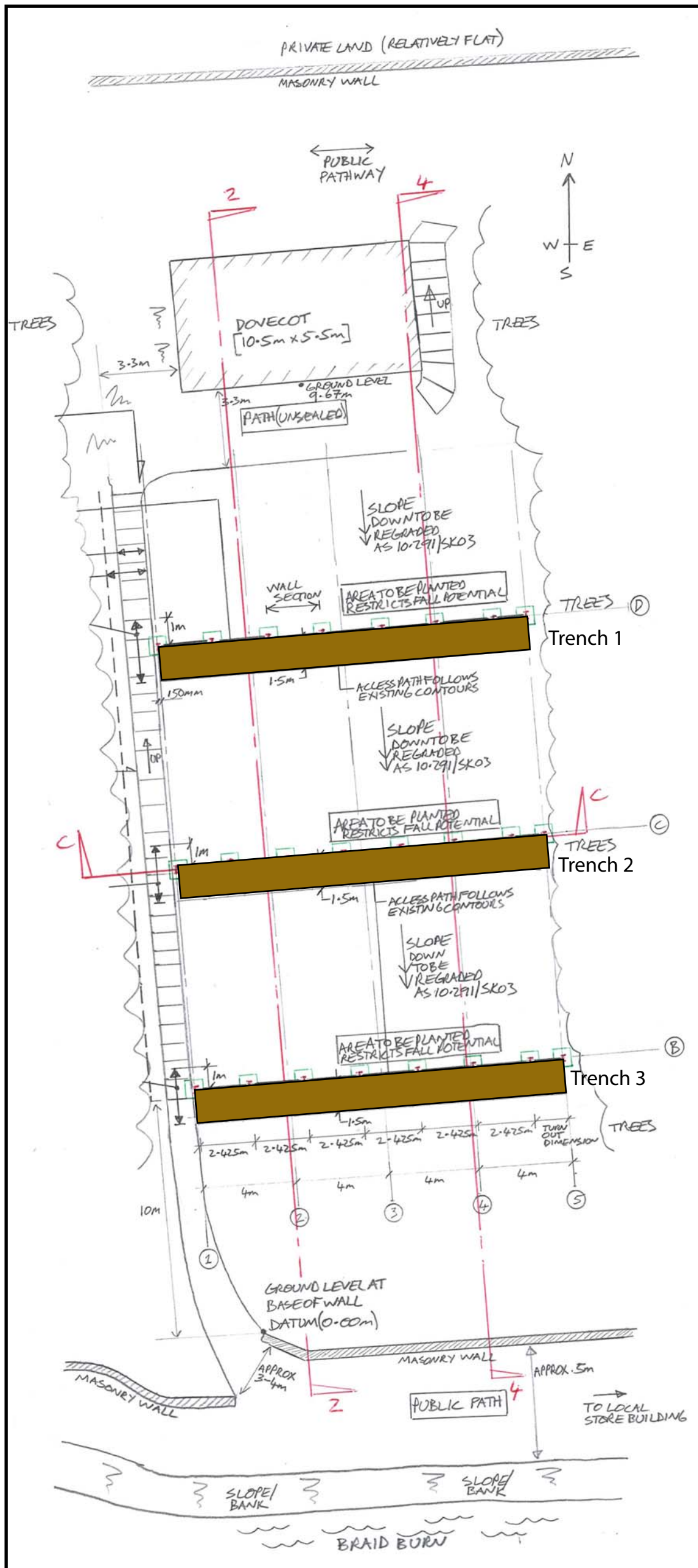


Figure 2: Trench location plan, Hermitage of Braid



**Hermitage of Braid,
Edinburgh:
Archaeological Works Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

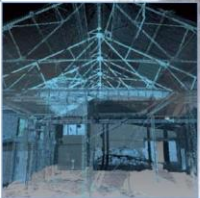
APPENDIX 1: Photographic Record

Colour Print/ /Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1	Registration shot	
2	Lower front elevation of Doocot	S
3	Lower front elevation of Doocot	SW
4	Lower front elevation of Doocot	SE
5	Eastern elevation of Doocot	E
6	Western elevation of Doocot showing recent repairs	W
7	Rear elevation of Doocot	N
8	Upper front elevation of Doocot (detail)	SE
9	South-east corner of Doocot (detail)	SE
10	South-west corner of Doocot (detail)	SW
11	Stonework detail front of Doocot	S
12	Post-excavation Trench 1	NW
13	Entrance to Walled Garden [Wall 1]	W
14	Entrance to Walled Garden [Wall 1]	SW
15	Entrance to Walled Garden showing poor repair [Wall 1]	W
16	Garden Wall [Wall 1] joining Rear Wall [Wall 2]	SW
17	Entrance to Walled Garden [Wall 1]	E
18	Wall 1 north-west corner fragment abutting Walls 2 & 3	S
19	Wall 1 north-west corner fragment abutting Walls 2 & 3	SE
20	Wall 1 north-west corner showing repaired section abutting Wall 3 note 'Niddrie' stamped brick	E
21	Wall 3 abutting Walls 2 & 1	NW
22	Wall 1 western section north - south	N
23	Wall 1 western section north – south showing modern repairs	E
24	South-east corner Wall 1	NE
25	Southern section of Wall 1	N
26	Wall 2 showing steel beam set into Wall	S
27	Wall 2 showing buttresses	S
28	Wall 1 south-west	NW
29	Wall 1 eastern segment	W
30-31	Doocot roof front elevation	S
32	Gate Posts of garden	NW
33	Gate Posts of garden & Wall 1	NW
34	Gate Posts of garden & Wall 1	S
35	Trench 1 south facing section	S

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Hill of Braid Archaeological Works
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22061
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Rob Engl
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief & Historic Building Recording (Phase 1 Survey)
NMRS NO(S)	NMRS: NT27SE351 & NMRS: NT27SW28
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Walled Garden
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 3248 6703 (centred)
START DATE (this season)	23 rd February 2012
END DATE (this season)	6 th March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Archaeological works consisting of a Watching Brief and Level 1 Historic Building Survey were required by The City of Edinburgh Council as a condition of planning consent during ground breaking works at Hermitage of Braid Walled Garden, Edinburgh.</p> <p>No archaeological material was encountered during the Watching Brief. The Building Survey revealed that the Garden wall had undergone several modifications.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	edinburgh@ocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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