

26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh:

Watching Brief

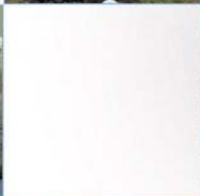
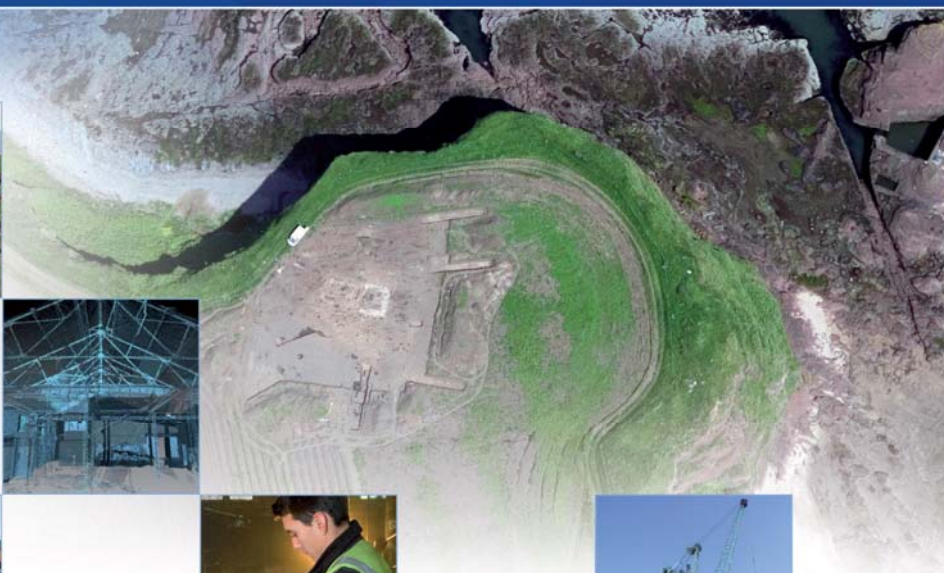
Data Structure Report

AOC Project 21994

OASIS ID: aocarcha1-122800

Planning Application No. 11/01996/LBC

1st May 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

26 – 31 Charlotte Square: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:

Fordell Estates Limited
C/O Corran Properties
38 Thistle Street
Edinburgh
EH2 1EN

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 2463 7375

AOC Project No: 21994

Planning Application No: 11/01996/LBC

Prepared by: Kevin Paton

Illustration by: Stefan Sagrot

Date of Fieldwork: 27th – 29th February 2012 & 4th April 2012

Date of Report: 4th April 2012

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

Author: Kevin Paton

Date:

Approved by: John Gooder

Date:

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date:

Enquiries to: AOC Archaeology Group
Edgefield Industrial Estate
Edgefield Road
Loanhead
EH20 9SY

Tel. 0131 440 3593
Fax. 0131 440 3422
e-mail. admin@aocarchaeology.com



www.aocarchaeology.com

Contents

	Page
List of illustrations	1
List of Plates	1
List of appendices	1
Abstract.....	2
1 INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 Background	3
1.2 Location	3
1.3 Historical background.....	3
2 OBJECTIVES	5
3 METHODOLOGY	6
4 RESULTS	6
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	8
APPENDIX 1: Photographic register	10
APPENDIX 2: ' <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> ' Report.....	11

List of illustrations

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Figure 1 | Site Location |
| Figure 2 | Plan of excavated area showing cellar foundations |

List of Plates

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Plate 1 | Extract from John Ainslie's map, 1804 showing Nos. 26 – 31 on the south side of the Square |
| Plate 2 | Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1853 |
| Plate 3 | Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1894 |
| Plate 4 | Sandstone blocks on brick foundations |
| Plate 5 | Western edge of cellar foundations |
| Plate 6 | Cellar roof |

List of appendices

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Photographic record |
| Appendix 2 | ' <i>Discovery and Excavation in Scotland</i> ' Report |

Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground at 26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

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.

An area measuring 16.4m by 5.5m was excavated within the back yards, of the 19th Century Georgian buildings. Apart from the cellar building recorded internally by previous archaeological works, neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Fordell Estates Limited to carry out an archaeological watching brief following the findings from an earlier evaluation, and 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, and to record the structure of the cellar in the area prior to the site being truncated by the demolition works. A Written Scheme of Investigation (AOC 2012) outlining the programme of works was agreed with CECAS in advance of the watching brief 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 Archaeological and 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 Numbers 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).

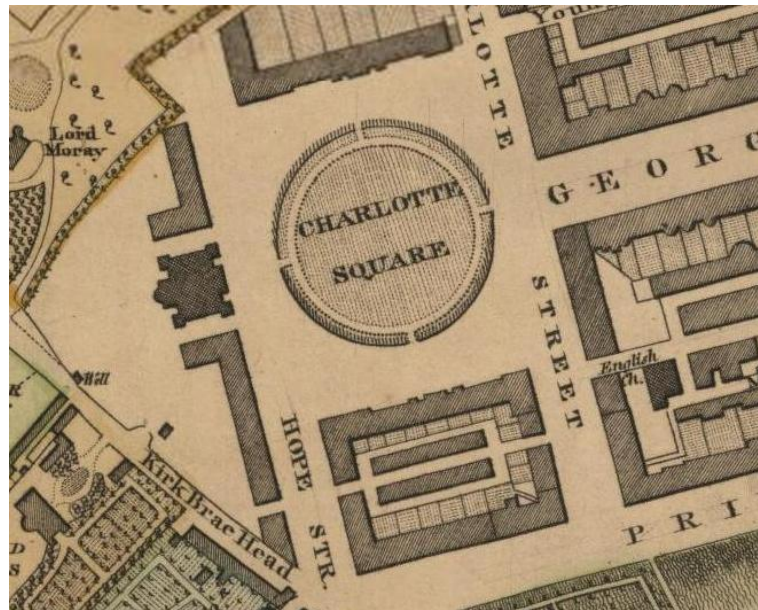


Plate 1: Extract from John Ainslie's map, 1804 showing Nos. 26 – 31 on the south side of the Square

- 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).
- 1.3.5 An archaeological evaluation completed in January 2012 within the proposed development area identified a series of red brick and sandstone foundations (Hindmarch 2012).

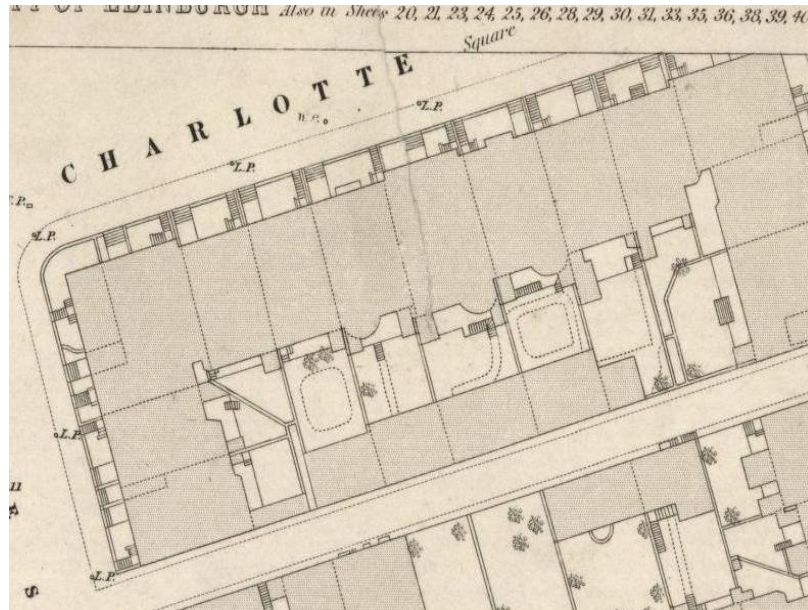


Plate 2: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, 1853

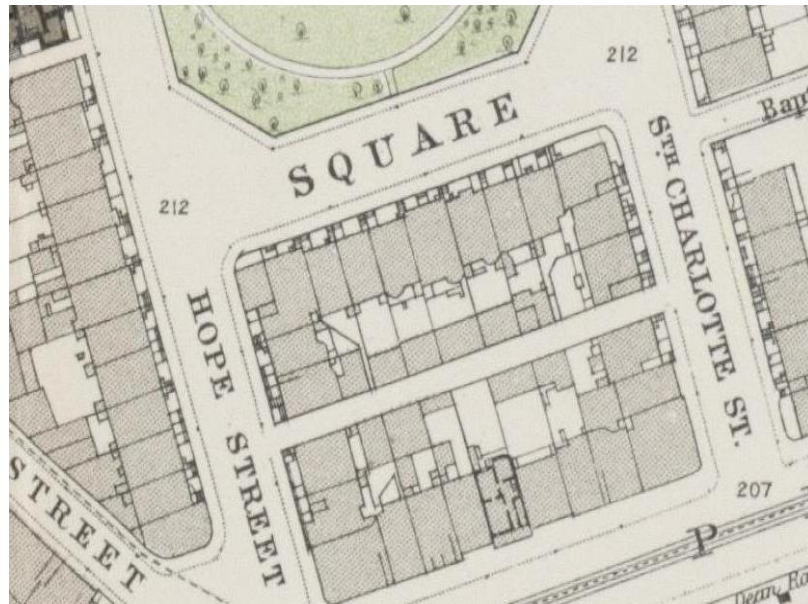


Plate 3: Extract from the Bartholomew map, 1891

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the removal of this back land material from the garden areas required as part of the ground works associated with the development;
- ii) to liaise with CECAS and the client in the event of significant archaeological features 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;

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The watching brief was conducted over two phases. Phase one excavations on either side of the cellar were undertaken using a mini-excavator equipped with a ditching bucket. The second phase was undertaken using a 22 tonne excavator using a toothed bucket to reveal the top of the cellar.
- 3.2 When archaeology was encountered the features were cleaned by hand before being recorded by digital and Black & White photography, drawn to an appropriate scale and then a written record produced using AOC *pro forma* context recording sheets. Any artefacts found during the excavations were retrieved and labelled.
- 3.3 Where the development proposals would allow, archaeological features were left to survive *in situ* and areas backfilled.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The watching brief took place over 4 days between the 27th February 2012 and the 4th April 2012. The weather was variable throughout, but typically fair. Overall archaeological visibility was good and an area measuring 16.4m by 5.5m was excavated under archaeological supervision.
- 4.2 Within the excavation area, natural orangey brown clay was revealed at depths of 0.74 m to 0.80 m, covered by a dark brown clayey silt and rubble filled made ground that was present under the courtyard sandstone flagstones.
- 4.3 Two structural elements of the back yards were revealed within the excavation area (Figure 2). A pair of large sandstone blocks (1.6m by 0.5m by 0.15m) with sawn off iron fittings in the top, located on brick foundations within the deposit of made ground (Plate 4). The stones were located at right angles to the basement retaining wall and appeared directly underneath the stone slab courtyard. These walls form the same structure identified during the evaluation (Hindmarch 2012), and represent modern services foundations.



Plate 4: Sandstone blocks on brick foundations

- 4.4 The second structure revealed was the known cellar and foundation walls. The foundations consisted of sandstone blocks (typically 0.5m by 0.35m) that were one course wide on the eastern and southern edges of the cellar but were stepped on the western edge extending 2.4m from the top of the vaulted ceiling. The ceiling itself consisted of arched brick covered in a 0.03m thick layer of concreted sand and lime mortar measuring 2.9m wide (Plates 5 & 6).



Plate 5: Western edge of cellar foundations



Plate 6: Cellar roof

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 No new significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief. The excavations revealed the external elements of the 19th century Georgian cellar, adding to the previously recorded interior, giving a full record of the structure prior to its destruction.
- 5.2 No further archaeological works are considered necessary. This recommendation will require confirmation by CECAS on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

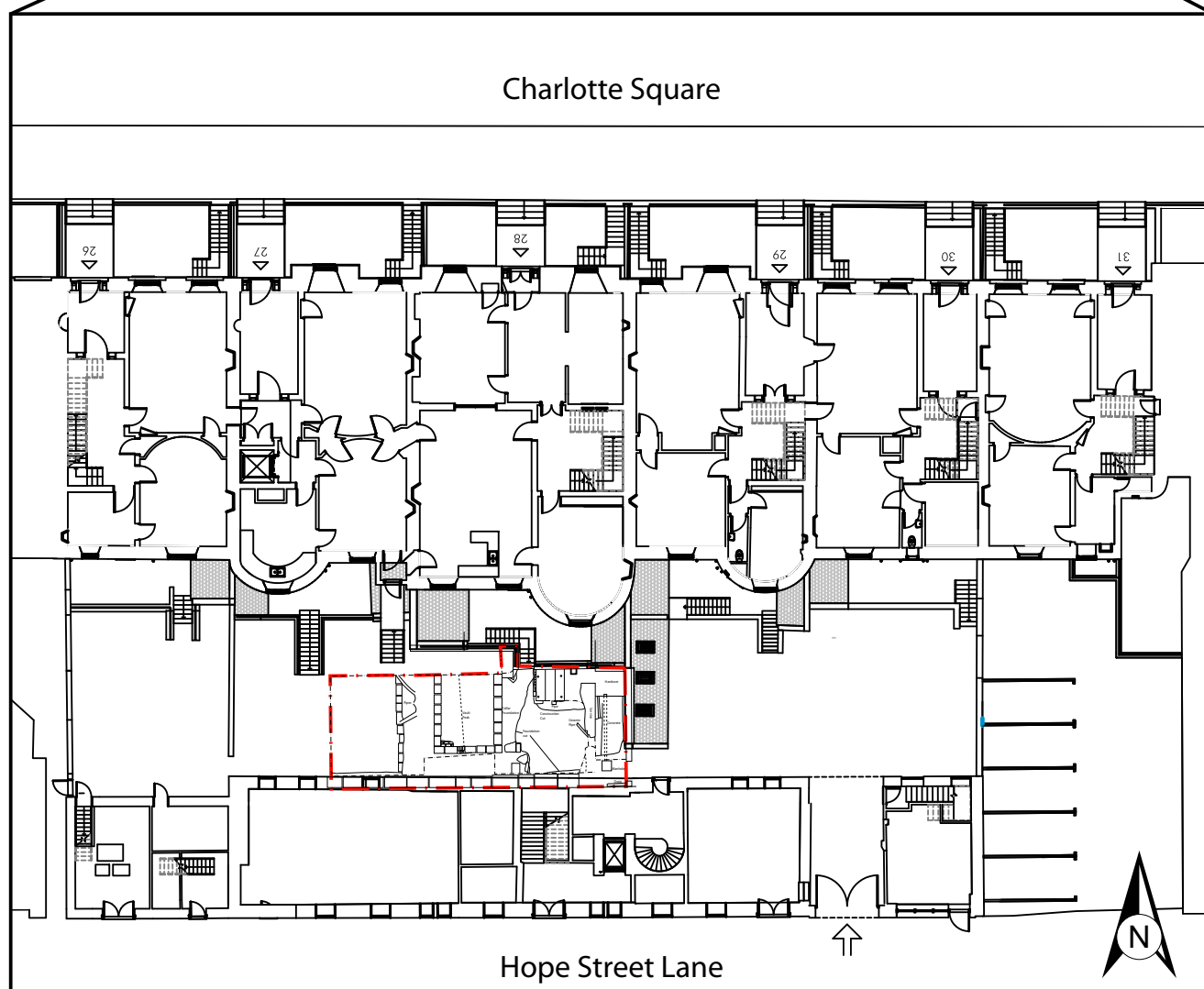
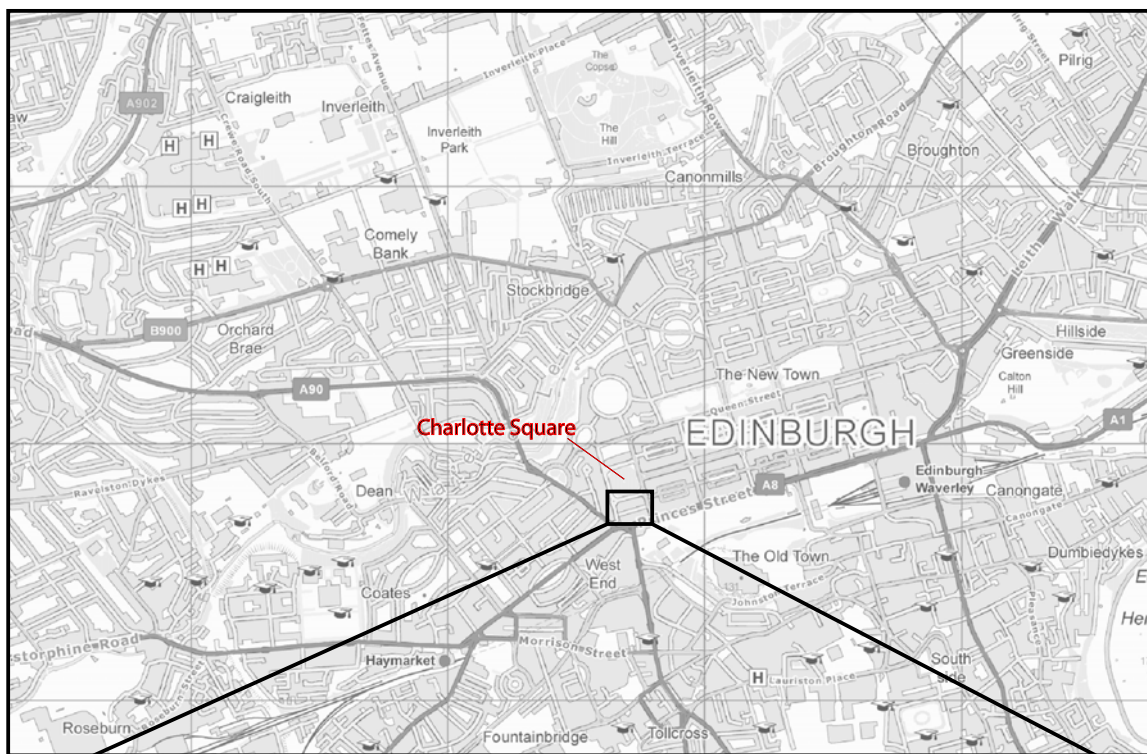
AOC 2012 *Charlotte Square, Edinburgh: Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation (21st February 2012)*. Unpublished AOC Method Statement.

AOC 2011a *Hope Street Lane Mews Building, 26 – 31 Charlotte Square Development, Edinburgh: Historic Building Recording Assessment Report*. Unpubl AOC Archive Report.

Hindmarch, E *26-31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh Evaluation Data Structure Report*. Unpublished Client Report

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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




 Excavation Area

Figure 1: Site Location

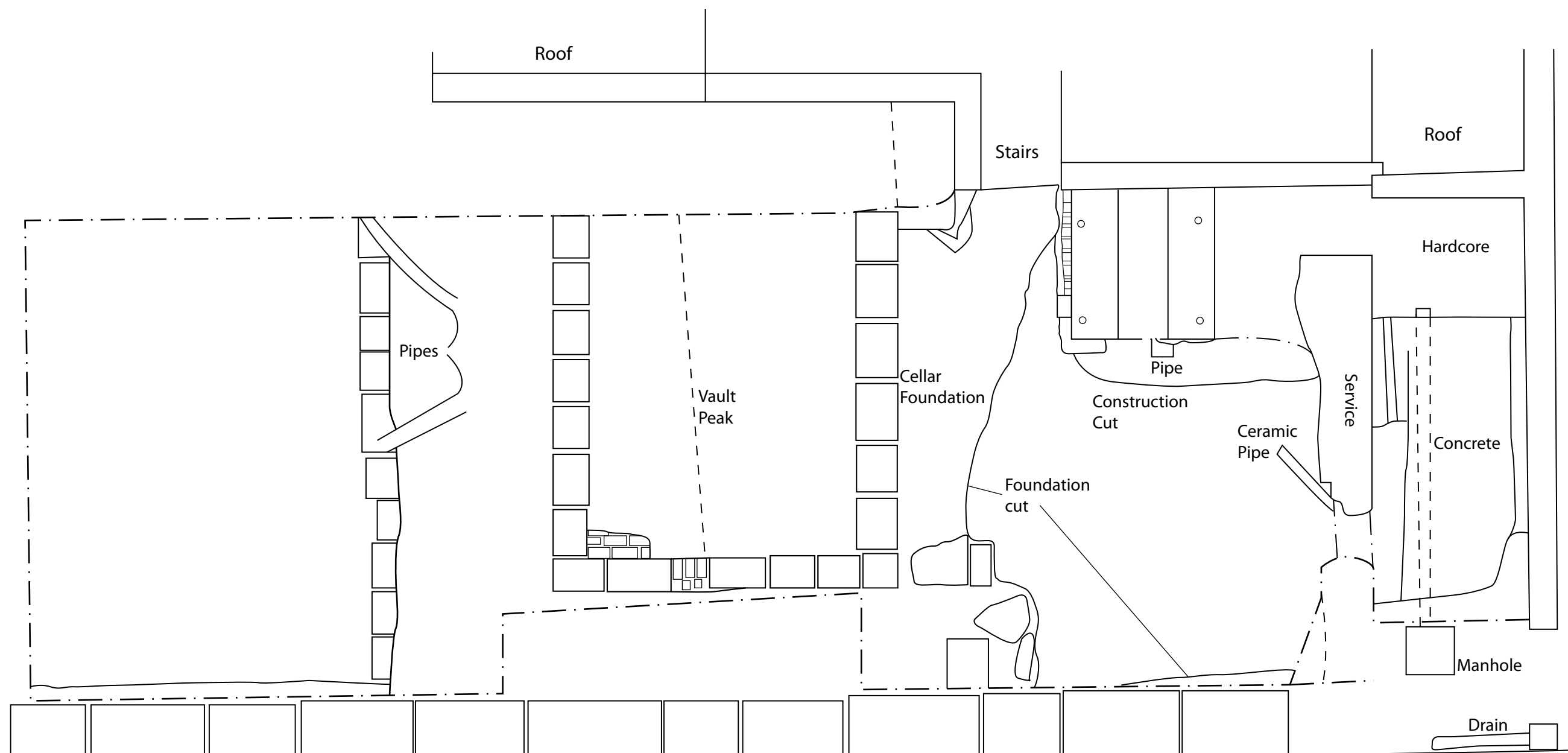


Figure 2: Plan of excavated area, showing cellar foundations

26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh:
Watching Brief
Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photographic register

Black and white film 1

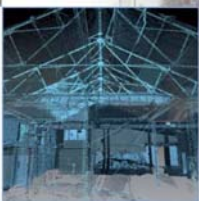
Frame	Description	From	Date
1-2	Registration shot	-	28/2/12
3-4	Cellar foundations	E	28/2/12
5-6	Cellar foundations	S	28/2/12
7-8	Cellar foundations	NW	28/2/12
9-10	Construction cut in Natural	E	28/2/12
11-12	Section showing stone with brick foundations with pipe in between	S	28/2/12
13-14	Stone slabs with iron fittings	W	28/2/12
15-16	Eastern edge of cellar foundations	E	28/2/12
17-18	Western edge of cellar foundations	W	28/2/12
19-20	Western edge of cellar foundations	W	29/2/12
21-22	Western edge of cellar foundations	S	29/2/12

Digital images

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	Hardcore under slabs	S	27/2/12
2	Duct for cables at required depth and drain	N	27/2/12
3	Working shot west of electrical service	E	27/2/12
4	Ceramic pipe in trench	NE	27/2/12
5	More pipes lower down	E	27/2/12
6	Natural clay	E	27/2/12
7	Cellar foundations	E	28/2/12
8	Cellar foundations	S	28/2/12
9	Cellar foundations	NW	28/2/12
10	Working shot showing made ground	SE	28/2/12
11	Construction cut in natural	E	28/2/12
12	Section showing stone with brick foundations with pipe in between	S	28/2/12
13	Stone slabs with iron fittings	W	28/2/12
14	Eastern edge of cellar foundations	E	28/2/12
15	Made ground west of cellar	E	28/2/12
16	Eastern area backfilled	W	28/2/12
17	Natural clay	E	28/2/12
18	Western edge of cellar foundations	W	28/2/12
19	Western edge of cellar foundations	W	29/2/12
20	Western edge of cellar foundations	S	29/2/12
21	Working shot	SW	4/4/12
22	General shot of cellar roof	W	4/4/12
23	General shot of cellar roof	SW	4/4/12
24	General shot of cellar roof	NW	4/4/12
25	General shot of cellar roof	NE	4/4/12
26	Eastern edge of cellar roof	N	4/4/12
27	Southern edge of cellar roof	E	4/4/12

APPENDIX 2: '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:	Kevin Paton
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S)	NT27SW 519
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	19 th century cellar and foundations
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 2463 7375
START DATE (this season)	27 th February 2012
END DATE (this season)	4 th April 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Historic Building Assessment (December 2011) Archaeological Evaluation (2012)
MAIN DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group on ground at 26 – 31 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh following an earlier evaluation.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>An area measuring 16.4m by 5.5m was excavated within the back yards, of the 19th Century Georgian buildings. Apart from the cellar building recorded internally by previous archaeological works, neither significant features nor unstratified artefacts were encountered during the watching brief.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	---
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Fordell Estates Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Kevin.paton@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead EH20 9SY
tel: 0131 440 3593 | fax: 0131 440 3422 | e-mail: admin@aocarchaeology.com

www.aocarchaeology.com