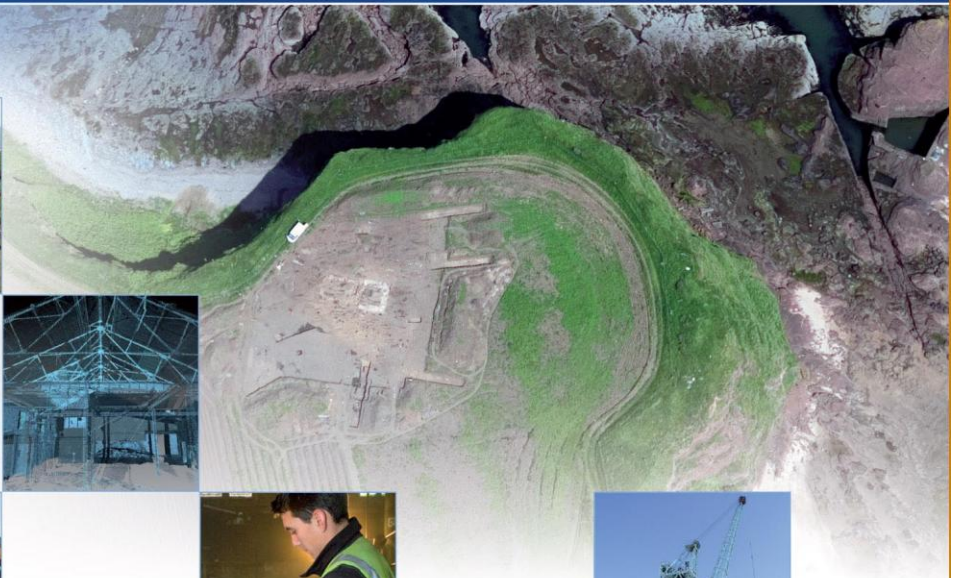
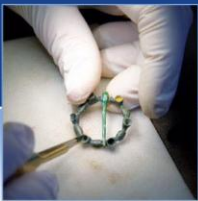


Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report

OASIS ID - aocarcha1-127891

AOC 22137

22nd May 2012



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh

Watching Brief Report

For: **WGM Consulting Engineers**
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National Grid Reference (NGR): **NT 2572 7347**

AOC Project No: **22137**

Fieldwork by: **Thomas Bradley-Lovekin**

Prepared by: **Thomas Bradley-Lovekin**
Jake Streatfeild-James

Illustration by: **Jake Streatfeild-James**

Date of Fieldwork: **18th of May 2012**

Date of Report: **22nd of May 2012**

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

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Approved by: John Gooder **Date:** 22nd May 2012

Draft Report Stage: Draft **Date:** 22nd May 2012

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Appendix 2 '*Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*' Report

Abstract

This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 2572 7347). The work was commissioned by WGM Consulting Engineers to address the potential impact of a service trench required for the renewal of the existing electricity supply within the Close directly west of 112 Cowgate and beneath a portion of the pavement on the northern side of Cowgate, fronting No.112. The archaeological works were designed in accordance with the principles inherent within Scottish Planning Policy (2010) and PAN2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011).

The objective of the work was to monitor all groundbreaking works associated with the renewal of the electricity supply. The work was carried out on the 18th of May 2012 and was conducted according to a scope of works which was agreed in advance by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS).

The groundworks monitored during this watching brief were set tightly alongside foundations of 112 Cowgate, where the ground was found to have been severely disturbed by existing services, including both drainage runs and the pre-existing electricity supply.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by WGM Consulting Engineers Ltd on behalf of the Faculty of Advocates to address the potential impact of a service trench required for the upgrading of the electricity supply within the close immediately to the west of the Solicitor's Building, north of the Cowgate, Edinburgh (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). The archaeological works were required in accordance with SPP23 Scottish Planning Policy (2010) and PAN2/2011 Planning and Archaeology (2011). Given the proximity of the excavations to earlier identified archaeological remains, including human remains probably associated with the former graveyard of St Giles Cathedral, (Engl 2008), there was clearly the potential for the proposed works to encounter further archaeological material.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The service trench was located within the close immediately to the west of the Solicitor's Building, directly north of the Cowgate behind the Supreme Court and Court of Session buildings Edinburgh (NGR: NT 25727 73472; Figure 1). The close has a cobbled surface with tarmac patches and drains indicating presence of previous disturbances.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) To safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by groundworks associated with the upgrading of the electrical supply;
- 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;
- iii) To report on the results of the watching brief.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 The works involved an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a service trench. Excavation was by means of a small mechanical digger initially utilising a toothed bucket to lift cobbles then reverting to a smooth bladed bucket for all further excavations. Due to the presence of numerous utility services a certain amount of digging was also undertaken by hand. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist. Figures 4 & 5 show the general depth of excavations undertaken.

3.2 All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices. A digital photographic record of the archaeological works was taken (Appendix 1).

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken by a single archaeologist in overcast and wet weather conditions on the 18th of May 2011.
- 4.1.2 The groundbreaking works involved the excavation of a 3.0 m x 1.5 m area on the N pavement of the Cowgate, with a 0.3 m x 0.5 m cable trench running down the foot of the W side of 112 Cowgate for a total of c.10 m. No features were recognised due to disturbance from previous service trenches however it is thought that this area lies within the fringes of the adjacent cemetery partially excavated in 2005 (Roy, 2005) which is known to have extended this far west due to discoveries to the west of the current watching brief in 2008 and 2009 (Engl, 2008; Dunbar, 2009). However on this occasion no material relating to the cemetery was recovered.
- 4.1.3 Sample sections from the S end of the site revealed a build up of modern made ground 0.7 m deep, incorporating loose grey sand with inclusions of brick rubble, overlying pale grey-brown silty sand, which contained fragments of concrete.



Plate 1 Trench under Excavation

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief has failed to reveal any new data regarding the periphery of the Cowgate Cemetery, due to disturbance of the W side of the close by 20th century services.
- 5.2 It is obvious that any further groundwork within the close is liable to disturb human remains and potentially other *in situ* burials (and very probably other archaeological material) and therefore would require an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Dunbar, L 2009 *Parliament House Gas Main Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology Client Report.

Engl, R 2008 *Parliament House Watching Brief: Data Structure Report*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology Archive Report.

Roy, M 2005 *Parliament House Phase 1C Evaluation: Data Structure Report*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology Archive Report.

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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

Faculty of Advocates Watching Brief

Section 2: Appendices

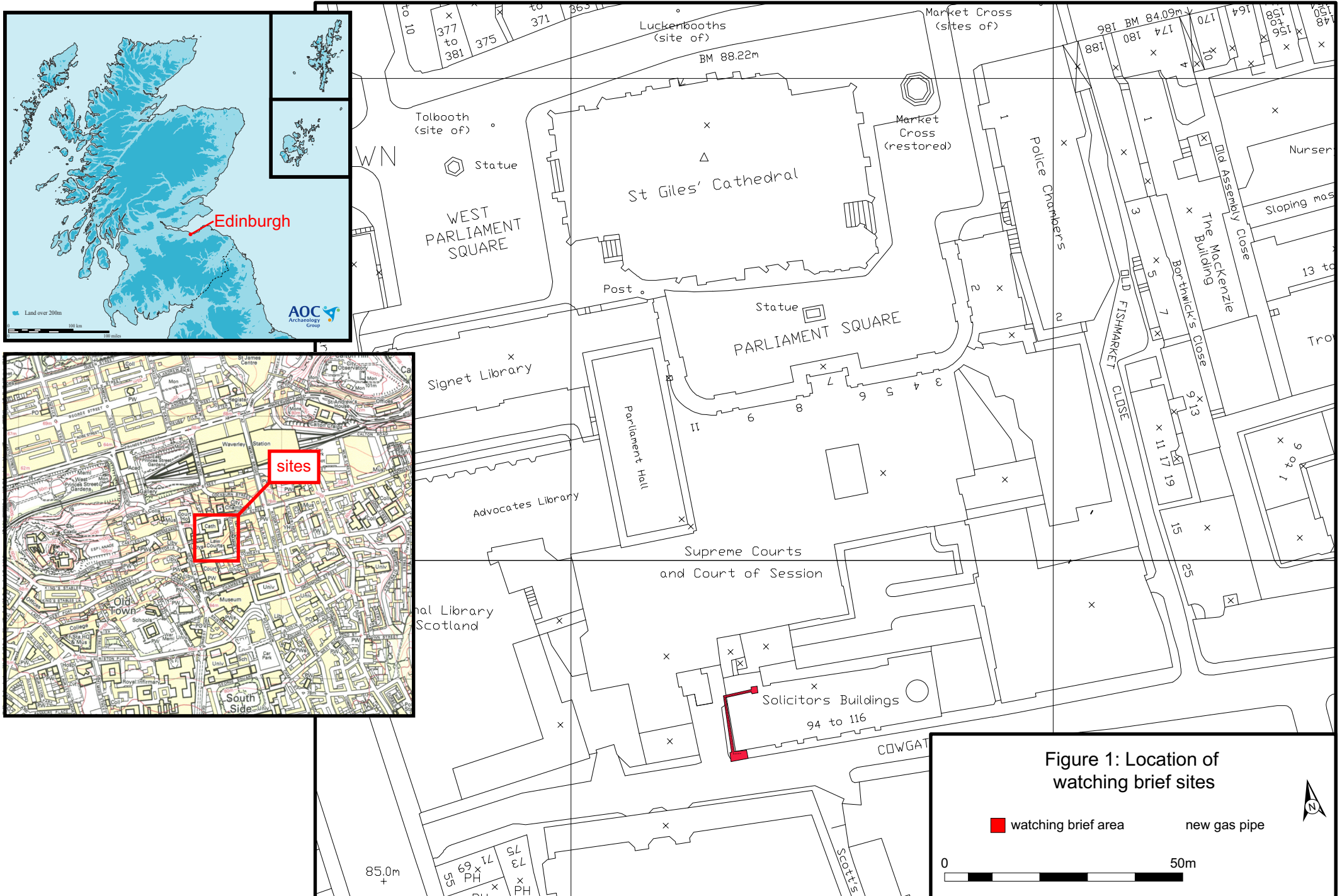
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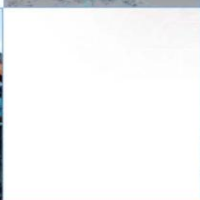
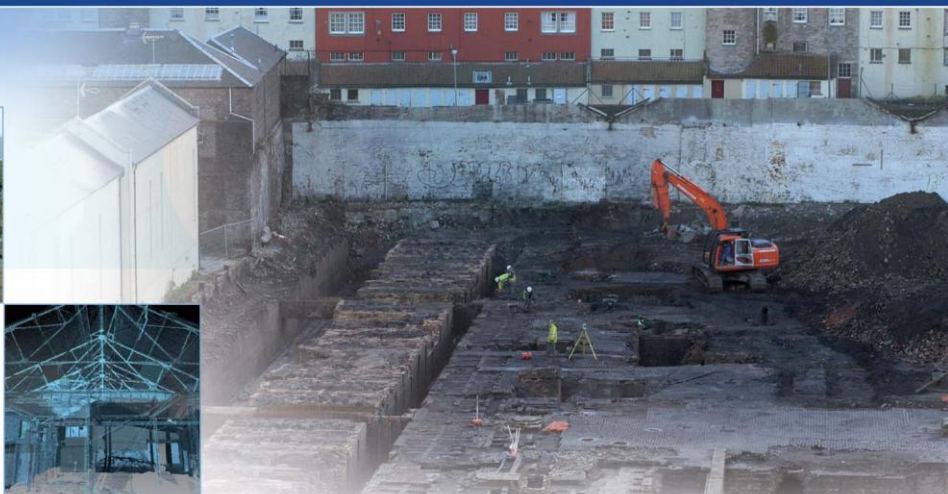
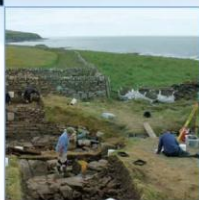
Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1	Cowgate Trench Under Excavation	W
2	Cowgate Showing Trench Excavation	W
3	Cowgate Showing Trench Excavation	S
4	Cowgate Showing Trench Excavation	S
5	Cowgate Showing Trench Excavation	S
6	Cowgate Showing Trench Excavation	E
7	Cowate Trench Complete	W
8	N/S Arm under Excavation	S
9	Section 1 Rep Section Cowgate Trench	N
10	N/S Arm Under Excavation	S
11	NS Arm Complete	N

APPENDIX 2: 'DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND' REPORT

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Faculty of Advocates Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22137
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Thomas Bradley-Lovekin
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 25727 73472
START DATE (this season)	18 th May 2012
END DATE (this season)	18 th May 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	AOC 20761
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A watching brief was undertaken to address the potential negative archaeological impact of a service trench required for the rerouting of mains electricity within the close immediately to the west of the Solicitor's Building, directly north of the Cowgate behind the Supreme Court and Court of Session Buildings, Edinburgh.</p> <p>The watching brief revealed no significant archaeological features, or human remains</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Faculty of Advocates
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	c/o AOC Archaeology Group
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