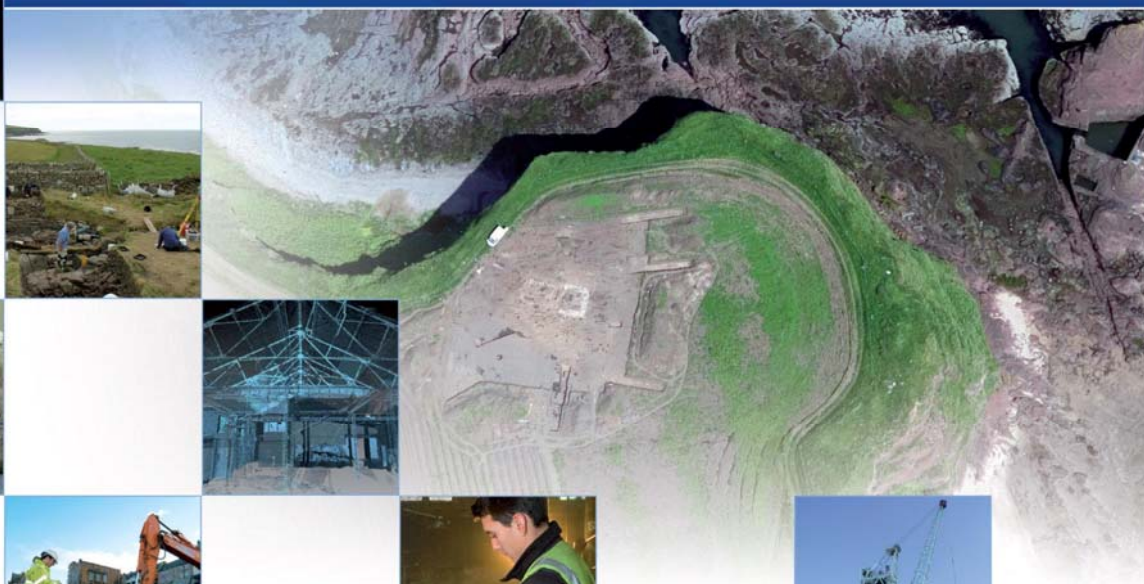


AOC 22223

28<sup>th</sup> August 2012



**AOC**  
Archaeology  
Group

## CONSERVATION

## Advocates Library, Edinburgh

### Watching Brief Report

<b>For:</b>	Henderson Surveying Limited Chartered Building Surveyors 5a Coates Place Edinburgh EH3 7AA
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	NT 25587 73513
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	22223
<b>Fieldwork by:</b>	Thomas Bradley-Lovekin Alan Duffy
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Thomas Bradley-Lovekin
<b>Illustration by:</b>	Stefan Sagrott
<b>Date of Fieldwork:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
<b>Date of Report:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2012

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

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**Approved by:** John Gooder      **Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012

**Draft Report Stage:** Draft      **Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012

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## Abstract

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An archaeological watching brief was required by Henderson Surveying Limited during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits outside the Advocates Library, The Faculty of Advocates, 11 Parliament Square, Edinburgh. Two of the test pits located immediately north (Test Pit 2) and south (Test Pit 1) of the Advocates Library were intended to assess its foundations, whilst the third Test Pit 3 intended to investigate a fractured water pipe was located in the courtyard which lies to the south of the Signet Library (Figure 1). Edinburgh City Council is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *2/2100 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).

The works involved an archaeological watching brief on the hand excavation of three test pits undertaken by separate contractors. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist.

The watching brief revealed only deposits of made ground and failed to locate the base of the Advocates Library foundations in either Test Pit 1 or Test Pit 2. It is possible that the soils encountered within Trench 2 may have been derived from redeposited natural as this was sterile, although the material encountered within Trench 1 was clearly dumped demolition rubble.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by Henderson Surveying Limited during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits outside the Advocates Library, The Faculty of Advocates, 11 Parliament Square, Edinburgh. Two of the test pits located immediately north (Test Pit 2) and south (Test Pit 1) of the Advocates Library were intended to assess its foundations, whilst the third Test Pit 3 intended to investigate a fractured water pipe was located in the courtyard which lies to the south of the Signet Library (Figure 1). Edinburgh City Council is advised on archaeological matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The archaeological works will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in *Scottish Planning Policy* (Scottish Government 2010) and *PAN 2/21011 Planning & Archaeology* (Scottish Government 2011).
- 1.1.2 Dating from 1830 the Advocates Library is located within the core of the Old Town of Edinburgh within the complex of historic court buildings which lies immediately south of St Giles Cathedral. The library stands within the UNESCO designated World Heritage Site. The eastern gable of the library butts the side elevation of the 1632 Parliament Hall, the pre-Union seat of the Scottish Parliament. The Advocates Library, the Parliament Hall and the Signet Library to the North are all Category A Listed Buildings. AOC has worked extensively within the Scottish Supreme Court/ Parliament House complex undertaking historic building recording with Bank House, the Exchequer Building and Parliament House (Sproat 2001, Toolis and Sproat 2003) and Dendrochronological analysis of the roof of the Exchequer Building (Toolis 2002). AOC excavated 96 burials relating to the former lower churchyard of St. Giles, beneath the south courtyard of Parliament House (Toolis and Roy 2004). Further burials were uncovered by AOC during a watching brief within the courtyard immediately west of the Solicitors Buildings (Engl 2008), suggesting that the former cemetery extended as far south as the Cowgate frontage. AOC have also undertaken small scale watching briefs within the complex (Toolis 2002, Toolis and Sproat 2003, Bradley-Lovekin and Streatfeild-James 2012).

## 1.2 Location

- 1.2.1 The three test pits were located both north and south of the exterior of the Advocates Library (NGR: NT 2568 7351, Figure 1). Test Pit 1 was excavated against the southern elevation wall of the Library within a small courtyard accessed from the Cowgate to the south. Test Pit 2 was dug against the corresponding north elevation wall, within an open basement court, several metres below the ground level of the grassed court to the north (**Plate 4**). The final test pit, Test Pit 3 was excavated within this upper grassed court.
- 1.2.2 The individual grid references for the test pits were:

Test-pit No.	NGR	Location
1	NT 25603 73497	Adjacent to southern wall of Advocates' Library
2	NT 25587 73513	Adjacent to northern wall of Advocates' Library
3	NT 25591 73520	Between Signet Library & Advocates' Library

## 2 OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:

- i) to safeguard the archaeological resource from any adverse impacts created by the excavation of the test-pits;
- 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 hand excavation of three test pits undertaken by separate contractors. All ground breaking was monitored by an experienced field archaeologist.
- 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 watching brief was undertaken in dry but occasionally overcast weather conditions on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2012.

#### 4.1.2 Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was excavated to a depth of 1.5m against the southern elevation wall of the Advocates Library (**Plate 1**). A single deposit of friable dark greyish brown sandy clay mixed with demolition rubble was encountered extending to the limit of excavation from beneath the thin spread of scalpings which form the modern ground surface. The deposit contained a mix of material including clearly 20<sup>th</sup> century recent ceramic, architectural masonry (**Plate 2**) and fragment of Glasgow manufactured chimney pots dating to around 1830-1850 (Haggerty *pers. Comm.*). Test Pit 1 measured 1.8 x 0.70m.





**Plate 1 Test Pit 1**



**Plate 2 Fragment of Architectural Masonry Recovered from Test Pit 1**

#### **4.1.3 Test Pit 2**

Test Pit 2 was excavated to a depth of 2.15m against the northern elevation wall of the Advocates Library (**Plate 2**). A single deposit of buff yellowish greyish brown silty sand with sandstone brash extended for 1.3m below the ground surface. The sandstone brash was sealed by a deposit of grey clayey sand containing pockets of black organic clay which extended below the limit of excavation. No finds were recovered during the excavation of the test pit. Test Pit 2 measured 1.8 x 0.70m.





**Plate 3 Test Pit 2**



**Plate 4 East facing view along the basement court within which Test Pit 2 was excavated showing the Advocates Library (right), the courtyard's revetment wall (left) and Parliament Hall (background)**

#### 4.1.4 Test Pit 3

Test Pit 2 was excavated to a depth of 0.85m within the grassed courtyard which lies between the Advocates Library, the Signet Library and Parliament Hall Advocates (**Plate 5**). A single deposit of dark greyish brown sandy clay mixed with rubble extended from ground level to the limit of excavation (**Plate 6**). No finds were recovered during the excavation of the test pit. Test Pit 3 measured 3.4 x 1.40m.



**Plate 5** East facing view of Test Pit 3 showing the Advocates Library (right), the Signet Library (left) and Parliament Hall (centre)



**Plate 6** Test Pit 3

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The watching brief revealed only deposits of made ground and failed to locate the base of the Advocates Library foundations in either Test Pit 1 or Test Pit 2. It is possible that the soils encountered within Trench 2 may have been derived from redeposited natural as this was sterile, although the material encountered within Trench 1 was clearly dumped demolition rubble.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Bradley-Lovekin and Streatfeild-James 2012, *Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Report*, AOC No. 22127

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Toolis and Sproat, R and D 2003 'Parliament House (City parish of Edinburgh), standing building recording; watching brief', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol.4 Page(s): 72

Toolis, R 2002 'Parliament House, City of Edinburgh (City parish of Edinburgh), watching brief; standing building recording', *Discovery Excav Scot*, vol.3 Page(s): 51

Scottish Government 2010 *Scottish Planning Policy*.

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





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# **Advocates Library Watching Brief**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

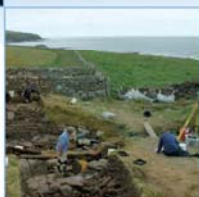
### Digital Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1	West facing view Test Pit 2	E
2	East facing view Test Pit 2	W
3	Test Pit 2 Section 1	E
4	Test Pit 2 Section 1	E
5	Test Pit 2 Section 1	E
6	North facing view courtyard showing Test Pit 1	S
7	Detail of worked stone recovered from TP1(A)	-
8	Detail of worked stone recovered from TP1(A)	-
9	Detail of worked stone recovered from TP1(A)	-
10	Detail of worked stone recovered from TP1(A)	-
11	General shot from West	N
12	General shot from Northwest	N
13	General shot from East	N
14	General view from George IV Bridge	W
15	General view from George IV Bridge	W
16	Detail West facing section South end	W
17	Detail West facing section North end	W
18	General view trench from south	S
19	Test Pit 1 West facing section	W
20	Test Pit 1 West facing section	W
21	Test Pit 1 West facing section	W



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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Advocates Library Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22243
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:	19 <sup>th</sup> century chimney pots, architectural masonry
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 25587 73513
START DATE (this season)	15 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
END DATE (this season)	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	AOC 22223
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of three geotechnical test pits outside the Advocates Library, The Faculty of Advocates, 11 Parliament Square, Edinburgh. Two of the test pits located immediately north and south of the Advocates Library were intended to assess its foundations, whilst the third test pits intended to investigate a fractured water pipe was located in the courtyard which lies to the south of the Signet Library.</p> <p>The watching brief revealed only deposits of made ground and failed to locate the base of the Advocates Library foundations.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Unknown
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Henderson Surveying Limited
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	c/o AOC Archaeology Group
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