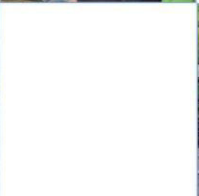
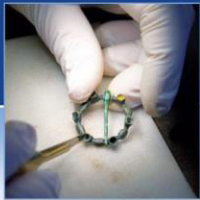


Saughton Hall, Edinburgh: Watching Brief Data Structure Report

AOC Project 22747

18th February 2019

OASIS No. aocarcha1-346389



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

Saughton Hall, Edinburgh: Watching Brief

Data Structure Report

On Behalf of:	Ironside Farrar 111 McDonald Road Edinburgh EH7 4NW
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 22010 71968 to NT 22161 71999
AOC Project No:	22747
OASIS Entry No:	aocarcha1- 346389
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Illustrations:	Sam O'Leary
Date of Fieldwork:	11th October 2017 – 20th October 2017 & 24th April 2018
Date of Report:	18th February 2019

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

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Saughton Hall, Edinburgh:
Archaeological Monitored Topsoil Strip & Excavation Data Structure Report

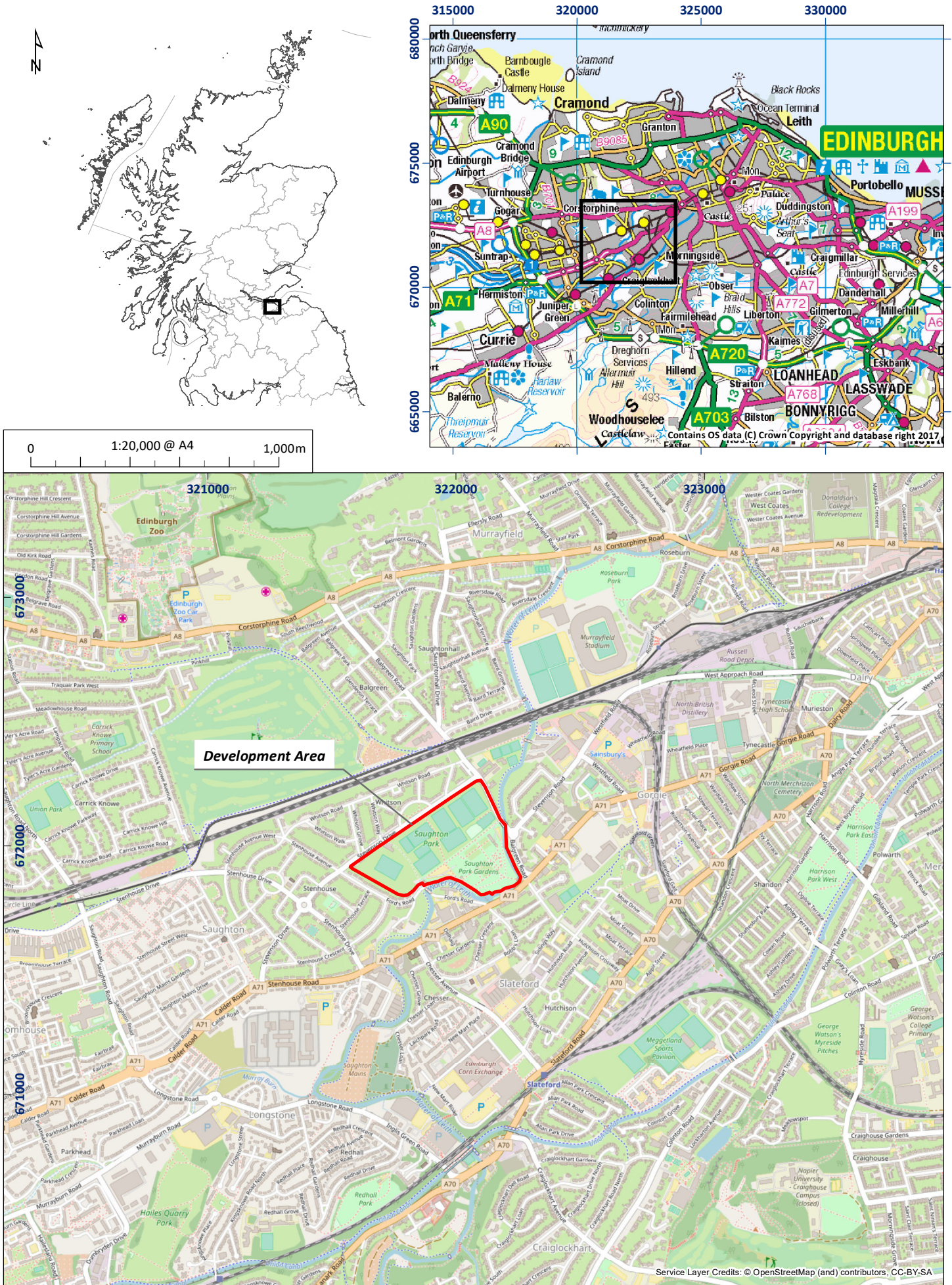


Figure 1: Site location plan

01/22747/DSR/01/01

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Abstract

As part of an ongoing development of Saughton Park AOC was required to monitor the excavation of a pipe trench running from the gardeners compound to the glasshouses. These works are a continuation of the monitored topsoil strip and excavation within the gardeners compound completed in late summer 2017.

During the works seven truncated sandstone walls were discovered along with a mortar surface with sandstone kerbing. These structures existed out with the plan of Saughtonhall house but are likely to still relate to 19th Century features within the grounds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was required by City of Edinburgh Council prior to the excavating of pipe trenches associated with a development at the site of Saughtonhall House, Edinburgh and its associated historic gardens. The work is part of the development phase of a Parks for People Heritage Lottery Fund Application to restore Saughton Park, with archaeology and heritage forming a key component in the project. The excavation lies within the administrative area of Edinburgh City Council, which is advised on archaeological matters by Mr. John Lawson, City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, CECAS. The excavation will be undertaken in keeping with best practice requirements outlined in current planning guidelines Scottish Planning Policy (2014) & Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 (2011) in order to record the extent and significance of any archaeological remains which may be present.

1.2 Location

1.2.1 The park lies to the west of the City of Edinburgh. The site is wholly enclosed by Saughton Park, and is bounded by Balgreen Road to the east, the Water of Leith to the south and Stevenson Drive to the north (Figure 1). The area to be monitored lies to the immediate east of the 2017 excavation site with the pipe trench starting at the water of Leith walkway east of the gardeners compound (NT 22010 71968) running northwest to southeast then turning sharply changing to a southwest to northeast orientation finishing at the glasshouse (NT 22161 71999) (Figure 12).

1.3 Archaeological Background

1.3.1 A Desk-Based Assessment undertaken by City of Edinburgh Council (2014) describes the archaeological and historic background and identified features of potential heritage significance within the boundaries of the site. Further historical research has been completed by AOC and has informed the archaeological and historical background summary assessment provided below.

Prehistoric period

1.3.2 As with many sites on the outskirts of Edinburgh, prehistoric activity is difficult to detect due to the urban development. A possible prehistoric spindle whorl discovered within the Saughton Park in 1917 (now in the National Museum of Scotland collections) is the only potentially prehistoric find recorded in the immediate vicinity.

Early Medieval period

1.3.3 It is likely that industrial activities were focussed around the Saughton Estate in the early medieval period. The nearby Gorgie Mill was a medieval (and later) mill and it is likely that

there may have been other industrial activities in the Saughton Hall park area, possibly to the south of the site where a weir exists within the Water of Leith.

17th century & 18th century

- 1.3.4 The land that now encompasses Saughton Park and Gardens was part of the ancient Saughton Estate which had its own historic mansion house referred to as ‘Sauch’ (the name meaning ‘willow’ in Scots). The Estate is thought to date back to at least the early 17th century and, by the 1660s, the site was in the hands of Robert Baird, who is credited with the construction of the older parts of the mansion which survived until its demolition in 1952. The maps of 1652 and 1682 by Bleau and Adair respectively show the settlement at ‘Saughtonhall’ at this time, the latter showing it to form an estate and mansion house of some significance (Figures 3 & 4).



Figure 4: Extract from Bleau's map, 1654



Figure 5: Extract from Adair's map, 1682

- 1.3.5 The maps throughout the 18th century show the general layout of the estate, including the mansion house and its gardens, with Roy's Military Map of Scotland from ca. 1747 – 55 showing the house and grounds in a rectangular plot of land roughly orientated NNW/SSE (Figure 5). This is clearly a slightly earlier form of layout than is seen later in the 19th century, which stretches to the east and west of the house.



Figure 6: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 - 55

19th century and the 'Private' Lunatic Asylum

- 1.3.6 Into the 19th century, the mansion house and gardens appear much the same. James Knox's 1816 plan even annotates the estate as belonging to Sir Ja[mes]s Baird, indicating that the estate remained in the hands of the Baird family from the 17th century to this time (Figure 5). In 1824, the house was leased to the Institute of the Recovery of the Insane - essentially a 'private' lunatic asylum for those of higher ranks - admitting over 100 patients from 1824 – 1840. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map details the mansion house and estate, including the extent of its outbuildings and the sundial in the garden (Figure 6). The grounds are extensive with pathed walkways bounded by rows of mature trees and with an open expanse of land to the south where the estate meets the Water of Leith. Two large mill complexes have also sprung up to the north-east (Gorgie Mills) and to the south-west (Saughton Mills).



Figure 7: Extract from Knox's plan, 1816

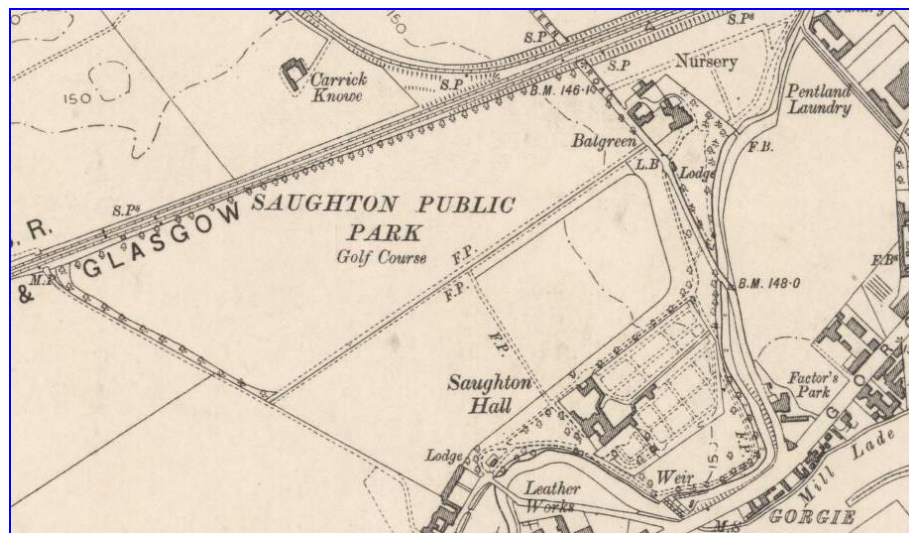


Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1855

The Edwardian period and the Scottish National Exhibition

- 1.3.7 By the end of the 19th century, 90 acres of the estate lands were being considered for a public park, following a report in June 1899 by the Town Clerk of Edinburgh. The owner of the estate at the time was Sir William Gardiner Baird who sold the land to the Council in 1900 for £52,900. To the north, a golf course was laid out on the lands, sparking controversy that the new park was not as 'public' as the residents had hoped. However, by 1904, the 7-acre walled garden was acquired together with a further 22 acres of land in 1905, the whole site opening in June 1905 as the city's new public park.
- 1.3.8 In 1907, the mansion house, together with the remainder of the land in its immediate estate, also came into public ownership. It instantly became extremely popular, hosting the Scottish

National Exhibition for 6 months starting in May 1908. To encourage city residents to attend, a new railway station – Exhibition Station – was erected at Balgreen Halt. The 1908 Ordnance Survey map shows the estate and house as it was under the new council ownership, the railway line to the north side adjacent to the golf course, with the extensive house, outbuildings and gardens to the south-east (Figure 8). The 1919 Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1912) demonstrates that activities undertaken at the park were greatly extended with an athletics ground added to the west of the site (itself bounded by its own line of mature trees), a large band stand to the immediate west of the house as well as some alterations and additions to the buildings themselves (Figure 9). These items remained once the Exhibition closed in October 1908 after around 3.5 million admissions. The bandstand, however, is said to have been relocated to the Marine Gardens at Portobello, although was replaced at the Fords Road entrance in 1909. The gardens were open (free) to the public in June 1910.

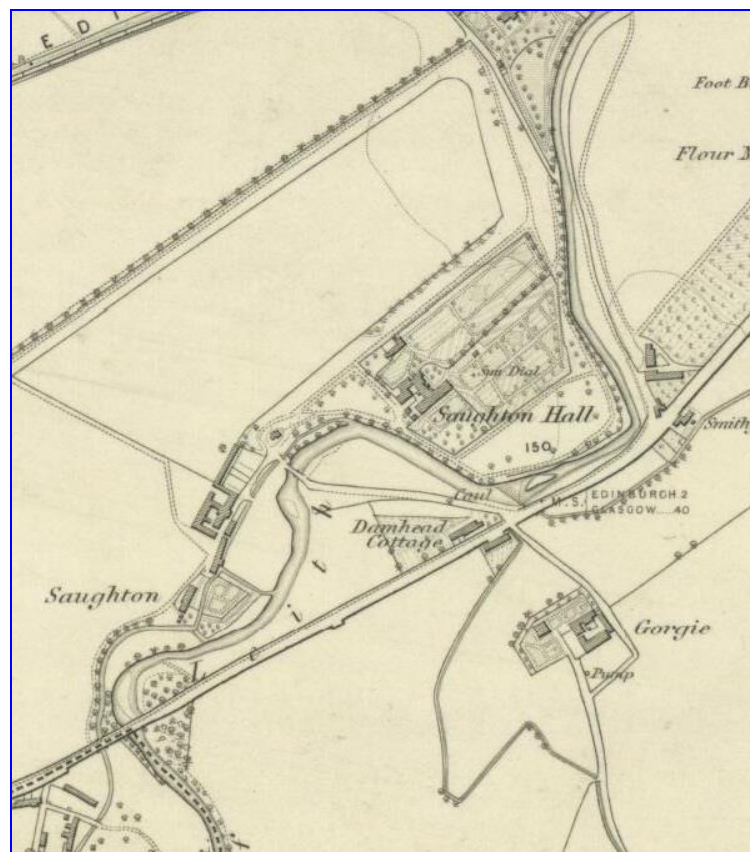


Figure 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1909



Figure 10: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1919

1.3.9 The Edwardian period was the hey-day of public parks on the outskirts of major cities and Saughton was no exception. Considerable investment was put into maintaining and caring for the gardens throughout the early part of the 20th century. In 1920, it was host to another event, the Royal Highland Show Fair, after which time much of the estate (forming mainly the golf course to the north) was used to construct the Whitson Council Housing Scheme. The 1944 Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1938) shows the extent of the neatly laid out new housing estate with Stevenson Drive forming the boundary to the site on the north side (Figure 10).



Figure 11: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1944 (surveyed in 1938)

The 1930s & 1940s period

1.3.10 The house and grounds that remained were still heavily used into the 1930s, the Royal Highland Show taking place there in 1931, and Coronation celebrations in 1937, which included a 40-foot bonfire that attracted 12,000 people.

1.3.11 The onset of the Second World War saw Saughtonhall and its grounds – as with so many old country houses at this time – converted for use to aid the war effort. Onion beds were planted to aid the ‘Dig for Victory’ campaign. The house accommodated Land Girls and also served as a convalescence home for members of the Women’s Land Army. However, once the war ended, the future of the house remained uncertain. Due to the age of the building and that parts were not occupied all the time, it was clear that the building would fall into decay if it was not maintained. The dereliction of the house, which included an extensive dry rot problem, together with the high cost of its maintenance, proved too much for the Corporation who sadly instructed its demolition in 1952. The stables and outhouses remained, most probably because they were still in use by the gardeners and maintainers of the park.

The 1950s - 1990s period

1.3.12 Despite the loss of the house, the Corporation continued to maintain the gardens to a high standard in the 1950s into the 1980s. A ‘Garden of the Blind’ was laid out in 1952, an Italian Garden in 1957, a display by the Royal National Rose Society in 1967 and a new Winter Garden in a single-span greenhouse in 1984 at a cost of £100,000. A children’s play area was also created, upgraded in the 1980s with a ‘Wild West’ theme. The Saughton Sports Complex was introduced in the 1970s and was upgraded in the 1990s.

1.3.13 As tastes changed into the 1980s and public parks became less common as a ‘day out’ for local residents, they also attracted their fair degree of vandalism, which caused the dismantling of the bandstand in the late 1980s. Into the 1990s, however, the park was still used for public display with a bust of Mahatma Gandhi unveiled in 1997 in the Winter Garden.

The 21st century period

1.3.14 A Skate Park was created in the park in 2010. However, it had become clear to the Council and members of the public alike that not enough investment was being funnelled to maintain the gardens to their ‘former glory’ of 30 – 40 years before. Vandalism had caused the removal of many of the freestanding garden ornaments that once inhabited the featured gardens on the site, as well as the aforementioned bandstand. The paddling pool was also no longer in use. Yet, parts of the gardens today are still finely maintained as are the lawns and hedgerows. The park is widely used by local residents. The original outbuildings associated with the house are now fenced off from the public and are clearly in a state of dereliction.

1.3.15 In 2014 the City of Edinburgh Council successfully secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to initialise a programme of works to rehabilitate the park and to re-engage the community – which it has served since 1908 – by embracing the rich heritage of the site in the first instance. A programme of archaeological works including evaluation, geophysical

survey and building recording, revealed substantial remains of the former Saughtonhall (Engl & Sproat 2014). This included elements of its initial 17th century construction. The project included significant local involvement.

- 1.3.16 In August 2015 CEC submitted their Round 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People and in January 2016 learnt that they were successful in securing £3.8million of funding. The total cost for the restoration and improvement works is estimated to be £5.2 million with the rest of the funding comprising Council and external funding.

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- i)* to determine the extent, condition, significance, nature, character, quality and date of any archaeological remains encountered.
- ii)* to record any archaeological remains discovered during the archaeological watching brief
- iii)* to assess the ecofactual and environmental potential of any archaeological features and deposits.
- iv)* to determine the extent of previous truncations of the archaeological deposits.
- v)* to make available to interested parties the results of the investigation.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 All ground breaking works associated with the creation of the pipe trench were supervised to the first archaeological horizon or till the required depth had been met. The majority of the works took place from the 11th October till the 13th October 2017 with visits on the 20th October 2017 and 24th April 2018. Conditions were good for the most part on all days allowing for good visibility.
- 3.2 The archaeological works were carried out using an 8-tonne tracked excavator equipped with a toothless bucket though a toothed bucket was permitted for removing tarmac or other hardstanding materials.
- 3.3 The pipe trenches measured c. 1m wide and between 0.6m to 0.9m in depth although an area measuring c. 2m wide was stripped of vegetation for the section running northwest to southeast however only the 1m wide pipe trench was actually excavated beyond this level.

4 RESULTS

4.1.1 The excavation pipe trench started at the northeast near the glasshouse and was found to contain the remains of six truncated sandstone walls towards the southwest extent of the pipe trench. Five of these were found to be orientated northwest to southeast and one was found to be orientated northeast to southwest. Walls [101] and [102] measuring 0.55m by 0.66m wide respectively, were found to be 5m apart and walls [102] and [103], measuring 0.4m wide, were spaced 3m apart. Walls [105] and [106] also orientated northwest to southeast were spaced 1.4m apart and measured 0.25m and 0.32m respectively. Wall [104] was orientated northeast to southwest and was present in the trench for 6m. All walls appeared to be constructed using angular and sub angular sandstone blocks with a lime mortar bonding (Plate 1)..



Plate 1: Robbed out wall [101] in service trench

4.1.2 Once the trench approached the site of the former gardeners compound it turned to the northwest. This service trench measured 0.8m wide by 0.4m deep. A single sandstone wall orientated northeast to southwest measuring 0.85m wide was discovered comprising of large rectangular sandstone blocks and lime mortar bonding similar to the walls discovered in the previous service trench (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Sandstone wall [107] in second service trench

4.1.3 Adjacent to this service trench a topsoil strip was conducted to check for potential services this measured c.2.7m wide by 0.1m deep. The strip revealed a surface comprised of angular and sub angular sandstone blocks forming a kerb with a mortar deposit forming a possible surface. This feature likely formed part of a path or road associated with the house (Plate 3). This structure was to be left in situ, so was not excavated but recorded to the fullest extent possible.



Plate 3: Surface [108] exposed NW of main excavation

4.2 Site visit – 24/4/2018

- 4.2.1 AOC was requested on site after the discovery of a well by the principal contractor on site within the car park south-west of development area. This feature was found to measure 1.6m in diameter with an internal measurement of 0.92m. It was constructed using sub angular sandstone blocks with lime mortar bonding till 1.1m in depth then changes to drystone cobbles. The depth measured approximately 5m. This structure was to be left in situ and capped, so no further excavations took place however the structure was recorded to the fullest extent possible.
- 4.2.2 A number of moulded stone figures were discovered on site and reported by a member of the public however upon visiting site these were found to be highly fragmented. These are not considered to be part of the house more likely garden ornaments.



Plate 3: Sandstone lined well in car park

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed that further foundations relating to the house existed out with what is considered to be the building footprint. The function of these structures is unknown due to the limited nature of the monitored excavations. Interpretation of these features was further hampered by the fact that they were for the most part truncated and partially robbed out.
- 6.2 At this point no, further action is required however further ground breaking works within the development area will require archaeological supervision. This will require verification by John Lawson of CECAS.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 Bibliographic References

AOC Archaeology Group 2016 *Saughton Hall, Edinburgh: Archaeological Excavations Phase 3 Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpublished Client Report

McGuigan J.M (2017) *The Archaeology of Saughton Hall and what it can tell us?* Unpublished Report

Scottish Government 2014 *Scottish Planning Policy* (2014)

Scottish Government 2011 PAN 2/2011 Planning & Archaeology

6.2 Cartographic References

1654	Bleau	<i>Lothian and Linlithquo</i>
1682	John Adair	<i>Map of Midlothian</i>
ca. 1747 – 55	William Roy	<i>Military Map of Scotland</i>
1816	James Knox	<i>Map of the Shire of Edinburgh</i>
1855	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet 5</i>
1909	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet III.SW</i>
1919	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet III.SW</i>
1944	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet III.SW</i>



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Figure 12: Watching Brief Area

01/22747/DSR/12/01

**Saughton Hall, Edinburgh:
Archaeological Monitored Watching Brief
Data Structure Report**

Section 2: Appendices

APPENDIX 1: Photograph register

Digital camera

Image No.	Feature No.	Description	Taken From
1	101	General view of trench showing robbed out wall [101]	NE
2	101	Detailed view of NW facing section	NW
3	101	Detailed view of SE facing section	SE
4	101	Plan view of robbed out wall	-
5	101	Detailed view of SE facing section	SE
6	101	Detailed view of NW facing section	NW
7	101	Plan view of robbed out wall	-
8	101	Detailed view of NW facing section	NW
9	101	Detailed view of NW facing section	NW
10	102	Plan view of wall	-
11	102	Plan view of wall	-
12	102	Detailed view of NW facing section	NW
13	102	Detailed view of SE facing section	SE
14	102	General view of Garden wall	SE
15	103	Plan view of sandstone wall & drains	-
16	103	Plan view of sandstone wall & drains	-
17	103	Plan view of sandstone wall & drains	-
18	103	General view of SE facing section	SW
19	103	Plan view of drains	-
20	104	NW facing section showing slag and sandstone deposit	NW
21	104	NW facing section showing slag and sandstone deposit	NW
22	104	Detail of sandstones	-
23	104	Detail of sandstones	-
24	104	General view of sandstones	SW
25	104	NW facing section	NW
26	-	General view of site	-
27	-	General view of site	-
28	-	Excavation by structure to W	E
29	-	Excavation by structure to W	E
30	105	General view of stone wall	-
31	105	General view of trench showing walls [105] & [106]	NE
32	105	General view of trench showing walls [105] & [106]	SW
33	106	Detail view of wall [106]	NW
34	106	Detail view of wall [106]	NW
35	-	General view of trench	SW
36	105	Detailed view of wall [105]	-
37	-	Trench section	SE
38	-	Possible path	-
39	-	Possible path	-
40	-	Possible path showing services	-
41	107	2m of exposed wall face	SSW
42	107	2m of exposed wall face	SSW

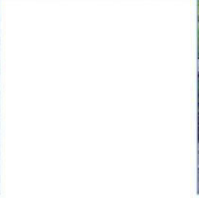
43	107	Length of exposed wall with 2m scale	NW
44	107	Length of exposed wall with 2m scale	NW
45	-	Area of tumble and mortar with 1m scale	NW
46	-	Length of wall from bulk with no scale	SE
47	-	General shot	SE
48	108	Exposed paving stones with 1m scale	NW
49	108	Exposed paving stones with 1m scale in relation to wall	NW
50	-	General shots of trench	SW
51	-	General shots of trench	W
52	-	2 nd exposed wall face	NW
53	-	2 nd exposed wall face	NE
54	-	2 nd exposed wall face with 1m scale	NE
55	-	2 nd exposed wall face with 1m scale	NW
56	-	Plan shot of metal pipe	S
57	-	Manhole with scale	NW
58	-	Manhole section with scale	NW
59	-	Manhole section with no scale	NW
60	-	General shot of manhole	NW
61	-	Relationship of wall and manhole	NW
62	-	Relationship of wall and manhole	NW

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context	Description
101	Wall orientated northwest to southeast comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar measuring 0.55m wide Sandstone Wall
102	Wall orientated northwest to southeast comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar measuring 0.6m wide Sandstone Wall
103	Wall orientated northwest to southeast comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar measuring 0.4m wide Sandstone Wall
104	Wall orientated northeast to south west comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar. Present in trench for length of 6m Sandstone Wall
105	Wall orientated northwest to southeast comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar measuring 0.25m. Sandstone Wall
106	Wall orientated northwest to southeast comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar measuring 0.32m. Sandstone Wall
107	Wall orientated northwest to southeast comprised of sub angular sandstone blocks and bonded with lime mortar measuring 0.85m. Sandstone Wall
108	Mortar surface of firm compaction with rectangular stones, unbonded, orientated northwest to southeast. Possible surface

APPENDIX 3: *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Saughton Hall, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	22747
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Wilson
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Excavation
NMRS NO(S)	NT27SW 9
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	House
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 22010 71968 to NT 22161 71999
START DATE (this season)	11/10/2017
END DATE (this season)	20/10/2017 & 24/04/2018
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	Evaluation of Saughton Hall Gardens over the location of demolished house (Engl & Sproat 2014); Evaluation of development area (Paton 2015)
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>As part of an ongoing development of Saughton Park AOC was required to monitor the excavation of a pipe trench running from the gardeners compound to the glasshouses. These works are a continuation of the monitored topsoil strip and excavation within the gardeners compound completed in late summer 2017.</p> <p>During the works seven truncated sandstone walls were discovered along with a mortar surface with sandstone kerbing. These structures existed out with the plan of Saughtonhall house but are likely to still relate to 19th Century features within the grounds.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	To be confirmed
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Ironside Farrar
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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