

# Scotstoun House, South Queensferry: Watching Brief Report

AOC 20959  
April 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

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## Scotstoun House, South Queensferry: Watching Brief Report

**For:** ARUP Scotland,  
Scotstoun House,  
South Queensferry,  
West Lothian  
EH30 9SE

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 1314 7727

**AOC Project No:** 20959

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

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**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009

**Draft Report Stage**

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## Abstract

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This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Scotstoun House, South Queensferry, near Edinburgh (centred NGR: NT 1314 7727). The work was commissioned by ARUP Scotland to address the potential impact of ground breaking works required as part of a programme of refurbishment. The archaeological works were designed in accordance with the principles inherent within SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

The present Scotstoun House, built in 1965 and designed by Peter Foggo, stands within the grounds of the demolished 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotstoun House. A standing building assessment consisting of a photographic record was made of the remaining elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden. The watching brief was confined to works within the walled garden.

The watching brief uncovered neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

1.1.1 This report represents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by AOC Archaeology Group at Scotstoun House, South Queensferry, Edinburgh. The work was commissioned by ARUP Scotland to address the potential impact of ground breaking works required as part of a programme of refurbishment and redevelopment. 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 designed in accordance with the principles inherent within SPP23 (2008) and PAN42 (1994).

1.1.2 The present Scotstoun House, built in 1965 and designed by Peter Foggo, it stands within the grounds of the demolished 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotstoun House. A standing building assessment consisting of a photographic record was made of the remaining elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden. The watching brief was confined to works within the walled garden

### 1.2 Location

1.2.1 Scotstoun House lies on the southern edges of South Queensferry (centred NGR: NT 1314 7727), lies within the administrative boundaries of Edinburgh City Council.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objectives of the watching brief was:

- i) to determine the character, extent, quality, date and condition of any archaeologically significant remains that may be disturbed by the proposed development works;
- ii) to undertake basic photographic recording of surviving elements of the walled garden;
- iii) 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 works involved two distinct elements, a standing building assessment of the remains of the 19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden and an archaeological watching brief on all ground breaking works associated with the redevelopment works at Scotstoun House.

3.2 The standing building assessment consisted of a simple photographic record of the walled garden prior to the redevelopment and refurbishment works starting on site.

3.3 The watching brief consisted of an experienced field archaeologist monitoring any ground breaking works occurring within the confines of the watching brief area which in this instance was the interior of the walled garden. Excavation was by means of a small tracked 360 degree mechanical digger

utilising a smooth bladed bucket for all excavations. Due to the presence of numerous utility services a certain amount of digging was also undertaken by hand.

- 3.4 All recording was carried out according to AOC Archaeology Group's standard practices. A black and white print and 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 predominantly dry bright weather conditions on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> February and 9<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

### 4.2 Standing Building Assessment (Plate 1)

- 4.2.1 An experienced Historic Buildings Archaeologist carried out the assessment of the remaining elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden. In total 36 Black and White print photographs and Colour digital photographs, as listed in Appendix 1, were taken to record the walled garden prior to the redevelopment works.

- 4.2.2 The remains of the stone rubble garden wall enclosed a rectangular former garden area to the north of Scotstoun House and had few features of note. There was a small door in the north wall with a repaired cement surround (Plate 1).



Plate 1: General view of the exterior north wall of the Walled Garden from the NE



- 4.2.3 The east wall was also plain, with only one small pedestrian opening to the south side. Another larger opening was located to the west of the north wall which would have been a cart entrance or similar leading directly to the front of Scotsoun House, with large dressed jambs to either side (Plate 2).



**Plate 2: Detail of the dressed stone jambs to the interior opening on the north wall from the S**

- 4.2.4 The interior of the walled garden was equally devoid of features, and had been heavily re-mortared in places for repair (Plate 3).

### **4.3 Watching Brief (Figure 1)**

- 4.3.1 The watching brief covered all ground breaking works that occurred within the walled garden and included topsoil stripping, excavation for underpinning of garden wall and excavations for services/foundations.

- 4.3.2 The only feature uncovered was the remains of a pathway lying under the turf of the Walled Garden. A section of path, running north-east/south-west parallel to the garden wall was initially exposed. Subsequently a corner in the north-east corner of garden was uncovered with the path turning 90° onto a south-east/north-west alignment again parallel to the garden wall. At this point it was clear that the path was the eastern portion of a still visible path lying the north-western corner of the garden close to the 'Stable Block'. It is believed that the path belongs to later 20<sup>th</sup> century landscaping.





**Plate 3: General view of interior NE and SE walls of Walled Garden**

- 4.3.3 Neither features nor artefacts of archaeological significance were encountered during the Watching Brief.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Standing Building Assessment has provided a suitably comprehensive record of the remaining elements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden that was associated with the original Scotstoun House, whilst the watching brief uncovered no features or artefacts of any archaeological significance.

## **6 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 No further works are required. Please note this recommendation will require confirmation from CECAS on behalf of Edinburgh City Council.

## **7 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

Dunbar, L 2008 *Scotstoun House, South Queensferry Watching Brief: Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished AOC Archaeology Client Report.

SPP23 2008 *Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. Archaeology and Planning*. Nov.2008.

PAN42 1994 *Planning Advice Note 42, Archaeology – the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures*. The Scottish Office Environment Department, January 1994.

# **Scotstoun House, South Queensferry: Watching Brief Report**

## **Section 2: Appendices**

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

### Black & White Print Film 1 & Colour Digital – Historic Building Photographic Record

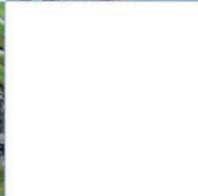
Frame	Description	From
1-15	General views of setting, location, aspect and wall	various
16	Registration	-
17	General view of the NE exterior wall to the E	N
18	General view of the NE exterior wall to the W	NE
19	Detail of the doorway to the interior SE wall	SE
20	General view of the interior SE wall	E
21	General view of the interior NE wall	SW
22	General view of the interior NE wall (wider shot than 21)	SW
23	Detail of the dressed pillar to the E side of the interior NE wall to the W	S
24	General view of the interior NE and SE walls	W
25	General view of the interior NE wall	SSW
26	Detail of the doorway in the interior NE wall	SW
27	General view of the interior SE wall	W
28	Detail of the doorway to the S of the interior SE wall	NW
29	General view of the interior SW and SE walls	N
30	General view of the interior SW wall	N
31	General view of the exterior SW wall	S
32	Detail of the doorway to the S of the exterior SE wall	SE
33	General view of the exterior SE wall to the N	SSE
34	General view of the exterior NE and SE walls	E
35	General view of the exterior NE wall	E
36	Detail of the doorway in the exterior NE wall	NE

### Black & White Print Film 2 & Colour Slide Film 1

Frame	Description	From
1-2	Registration shot	-
3-4	Path feature	E
5-6	Path feature	E
7	General shot of the stripped area	S
8-9	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	W
10-11	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	E
12-13	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	N
14-15	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	S
16-17	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	S
18-19	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	S
20-21	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	N
22-23	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	N
24-25	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	S
26-27	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	N
28-29	General shot of the stripped area – progress shot	S

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

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Scotstoun House, South Queensferry, Edinburgh Watching Brief
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 20959
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Lindsay Dunbar
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological Watching Brief & Standing Building Assessment
NMRS NO(S):	NT17NW 265
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cat B Listed Building
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 1314 7727
START DATE (this season)	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2009
END DATE (this season)	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken within the walled garden at Scotstoun House, South Queensferry during ground breaking works required as part of a programme of refurbishment.</p> <p>The present Scotstoun House, built in 1965 and designed by Peter Foggo, stands within the grounds of the demolished 19<sup>th</sup> century Scotstoun House. Prior to re-development works commencing a standing building assessment consisting of a photographic record was made of the remaining elements of the associated 19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden.</p> <p>The watching brief uncovered neither features nor artefacts of any archaeological significance.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	n/a
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	ARUP Scotland
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