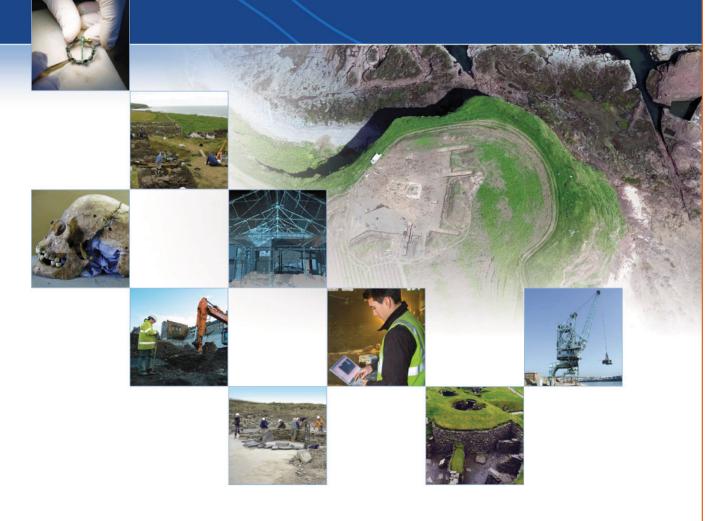
Calton Hill Stair Renewal: Watching Brief Report

20862 June 2008





Calton Hill Stair Renewal Watching Brief Data Structure Report

On Behalf of: City of Edinburgh Council

4 East Market Street

Edinburgh EH8 8BG

National Grid Reference (NGR): NT 262 741

AOC Project No: 20862

Prepared by: Sarah Lynchehaun

Illustration by: Alan Hunter Blair

Date of Fieldwork: February 2008

Date of Report: June 2008

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

Author: Sarah Lynchehaun Date: 6th June 2008

Approved by: John Gooder Date: 6th June 2008

Draft Report Stage: Date: 6th June 2008

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



Contents

		Page		
Lis	st of Illustrations			
	st of plates			
Lis	st of appendices			
Ab	ostract	2		
1		3		
	1.1 Background	3		
2	Objectives of Investigation			
3	Method			
4	Results			
5	Conclusion			
6	References	4		
Аp	ppendix 1: Context Register	6		
Ар	ppendix 2: Photographic Register	6		
	pendix 3: DES Entry			

List of Illustrations

Figure 1 Site Location

Figure 2 Area of watching brief

Figure 3 Culvert Figure 4 Culvert

List of plates

Plate 1 Culvert

List of appendices

Appendix 1 Context Register Appendix 2 Photographic Register

Appendix 3 **DES Entry**

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground-breaking work associated with the renewal of a stepped access route from Regent Street to Calton Hill, Edinburgh. The works were carried out between 11th and 15th February 2008.

During the watching brief the remains of a stone-lined culvert was uncovered beneath the sandstone stairs being removed.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief on ground-breaking works associated with the renewal of a stepped access route from Regent Street to Calton Hill, Edinburgh. This work is in full accord with the policies inherent within NPPG 5 (SOEnd 1994) and PAN 42 (SOEnd 1994a).
- 1.1.2 The area of watching brief (Figure 1) was located on the access steps from Regent Street to Calton Hill, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 262 741).

2 Objectives of Investigation

- 2.1 The objectives of the watching brief were:
 - i) to monitor ground-breaking works associated with the development and prevent the destruction of significant archaeological features prior to their recording;
 - ii) to undertake the immediate recording of isolated finds of moderately significant archaeological material that would be disturbed by construction activities;
 - iii) given the discovery of highly significant archaeological material in quantity that that will suffer an adverse impact from construction works (ie preservation *in situ* is impractical), the recording of all archaeological features by means of a mitigation strategy to be formulated with Mr. Lawson (Edinburgh City Archaeologist).

3 Method

- 3.1 All observed ground works were carried out by a mechanical excavator with a 0.6 m wide toothless bucket.
- 3.2 A Colour slide, Black and White print and Digital photograph record were maintained throughout the duration of the watching brief.

4 Results

- 4.1 The sandstone stairs were all removed intact and the retaining stone walls to the north and the south of the stairs were also removed under constant archaeological supervision.
- 4.2 The stone-lined culvert that was uncovered was located extending from a drain at the northern limit of excavation at the top of the stairs, curving as it continued down hill to the south at the southern limit of excavation. The inner faces were dressed and mortared and it appeared that the bedrock had been hewn to provide the natural base of the drain. It measured 0.3 m wide and had a depth of 0.45 m. It had silted up completely over its lifespan.
- 4.3 Along the course of the works particular attention was given to the north and south-facing sections after the retaining walls had been removed in case evidence of evidence of a ditch was present. No evidence was observed for such a feature.
- 4.4 Elsewhere, there was no indication of any further archaeological remains or features; perhaps deriving from the very shallow nature of the topsoil which directly overlay bedrock. No significant artefactual material was recovered.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The renewal of the stairs required more substantial foundations and bedding and as a result the culvert that was found was fully recorded in situ prior to being partially removed. No further archaeological works are considered necessary.

6 References

SOEnD 1994 National Planning Policy Guideline NPPG5. Archaeology and Planning. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

SOEnD 1994a Planning Advice Note 42. Archaeology - the Planning Process and Scheduled Ancient Monument Procedures. The Scottish Office Environment Department.

Calton Hill Stair Renewal Watching Brief Data Structure Report

Section 2: Appendices



Appendix 1: Context Register

Context No	Туре	Description
1	Structure	Stone-lined culvert located beneath the sandstone stairs. The inner faces were dressed and mortared and it appeared that the bedrock had been hewn to provide the natural base of the drain. It measured 0.3 m wide and had a depth of 0.45 m. It had silted up completely over its lifespan.
2	Fill	Fill of Culvert. Very rich medium brown peaty silt with frequent intrusive roots from trees to the south.

Appendix 2: Photographic Register

Film No 1: Colour slide, Black and White print and Digital photographs

Photo No	Subject	From
1-2	Registration	
3-13	General views of the culvert	
14-17	S side of the retaining wall (upper)	W
18-19	Area without steps (upper)	W
20-21	Area without steps (lower)	W
22-23	S side of retaining wall (lower)	W
24	Steps removed at lower level	S

Appendix 3: DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Calton Hill Stair Renewal
PROJECT CODE:	20862
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Sarah Lynchehaun
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Nil
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Nil
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 262 741
START DATE (this season)	11th February 2008
END DATE (this season)	15 th February 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on ground-breaking works associated with the renewal of a stepped access route from Regent Street to Calton Hill, Edinburgh. During these works the remains of a stone-lined culvert were uncovered beneath the sandstone stairs being removed.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	City of Edinburgh Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	AOC Archaeology, Edgefield industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocscot.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record for Scotland



Plate 1: View of Culvert from the west

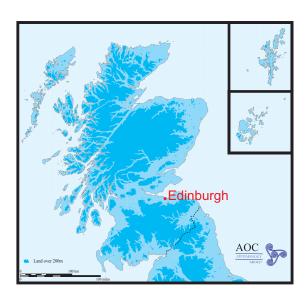




Figure 1: Site location plan



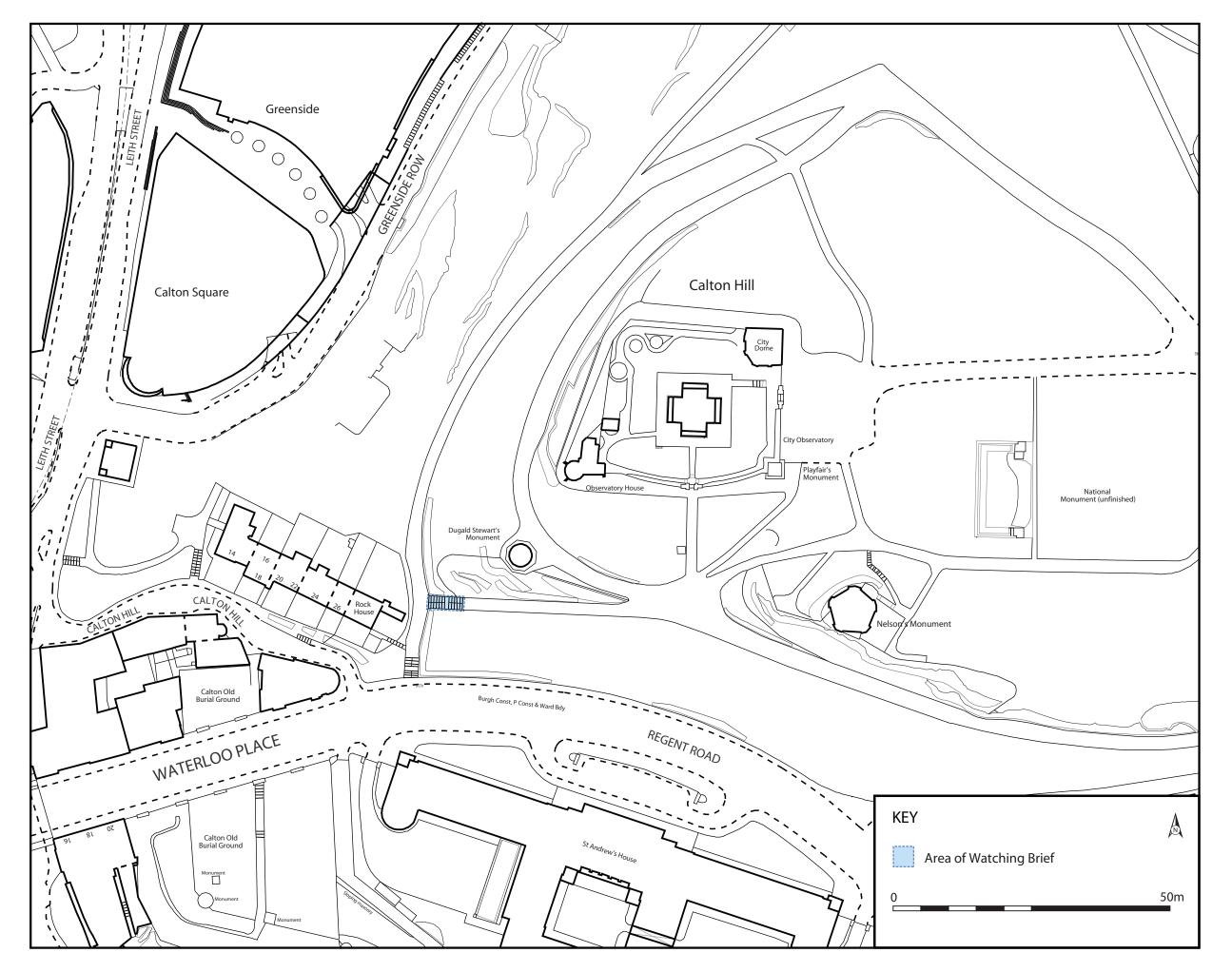


Figure 2: Area of Watching Brief



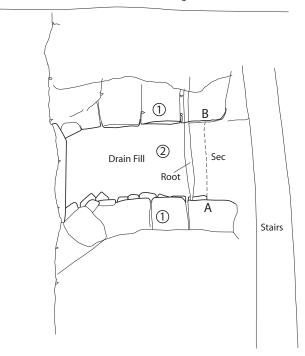




Figure 3: Plan of Drain



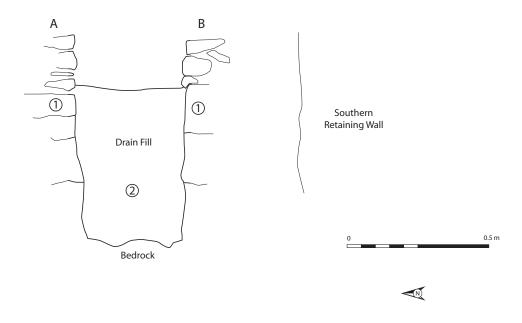
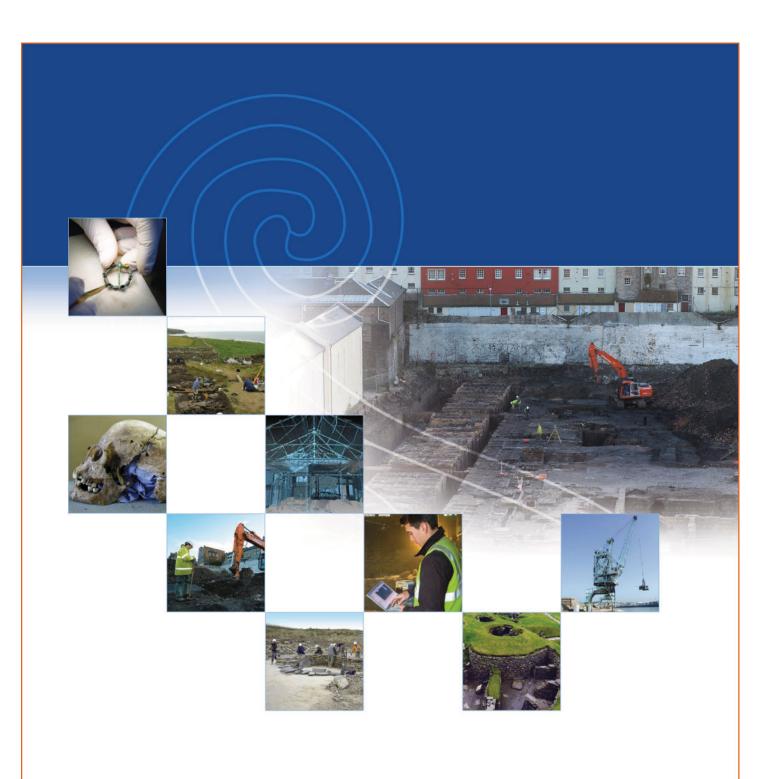


Figure 4: West Facing Section





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