# 14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh: Archaeological Monitoring

Data Structure Report



 $\begin{array}{c} \mbox{by Louise Turner} \\ \mbox{issued } 31^{st} \mbox{ May 2019} \\ \mbox{on behalf of Sundial Properties Ltd.} \end{array}$ 



#### Quality Assurance

This report covers works which have been undertaken in keeping with the issued brief as modified by the agreed programme of works. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance of Rathmell Archaeology Limited on the preparation of reports. All works reported on within this document have been undertaken in keeping with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct.

Signed ......31st May 2019....

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## Quality Assurance Data

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Commissioning Sundial Properties Ltd

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#### Introduction

- 1. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Sundial Properties (Gilmerton) Ltd. in support of archaeological mitigation, which was in turn undertaken in support of a wider programme of works arising from the partial demolition and refurbishment of properties at 14-16 Union Street and 24 Forth Street, Edinburgh. The works were required as these properties were located within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site and the New Town Conservation Area.
- 2. City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (the Curator) specified through an appended condition (17/03993/FUL) that the Applicant should secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological works which commenced with historic building recording. A Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2018), providing the detail of these works, was agreed with the Curator, who advises the City of Edinburgh Council (the Planning Authority).
- 3. This original WSI was subsequently augmented through an Addendum (McKinstry 2018a) which detailed a requirement for the archaeological monitoring of specific areas on the site during ground reduction. These archaeological works were designed to mitigate any adverse impact on the archaeological remains within the development area.
- 4. Rathmell Archaeology Ltd was appointed by Sundial Properties (Gilmerton) Ltd. to undertake the implementation of these archaeological mitigation works in response to guidance given by City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service, who advise City of Edinburgh Council on archaeological matters. All works undertaken complied with the agreed addendum to the WSI (McKinstry 2018a).

#### **Project Works**

- 1. The programme of mitigation commenced with archive consultation and historic building recording, undertaken by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd and consistent with the terms described in the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees 2018). The historic building recording met the Enhanced Level (Historic Building Recording Guidance 2013, ALGAO:Scotland), generating a record for the historic fabric subject to change prior to the impact occurring. This took the form of a report, containing a summary of the work undertaken and a baseline of the archaeological resource present (McKinstry 2018a). A full historical and archaeological background for the site can be found in this report (*ibid*.).
- 2. The areas of interest in this latter stage of the works comprised the monitoring of ground breaking works at ground level within Building 4 (as per McKinstry 2018b). While much of Building 4 was demonstrably mid-20<sup>th</sup> century in date, it had been recognised that at basement level, it incorporated earlier fabric, potentially derived from the earlier, 19<sup>th</sup> century, Buildings 1 and 1a, which may themselves have incorporated elements of earlier retaining structures.
- 3. The additional works described here allowed further opportunity to characterise exposed sections of fabric associated with these earlier structures, as well as testing the potential for the survival of early 19<sup>th</sup> century garden soils in the ground which lay between the basement walls and the line of South Lane, which bounded the southern edge of the site.
- 4. All works were conducted in accordance with Edinburgh City Council Archaeological Service Standard Conditions, the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statements.

## **Findings**

5. The area to be monitored comprised a narrow strip of ground, measuring approximately 7m from east to west by 1.5m transversely. It was located along the southern edge of the site, some 7.5m west of the south end of the eastern boundary/southeast corner (Figure 1). It comprised a block of sediment which lay between the north edge of South Lane and the basement wall of Building 4, a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century structure which itself incorporated relict fragments of earlier structures, potentially dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The extant walls which defined the north and east limits of the area of interest were also subject to

further study, with these works having the potential to uncover as-yet unseen fabric and hence enable its further understanding.

- 6. Wall [101], which comprised the extant N-facing basement wall of Building 4 (once part of Room 10a) was composed of snecked sandstone rubble, painted cream (Figure 2a). In section, it was 0.6m thick over its lowermost 1.6m (Figure 2b): here, it comprised an outer N-facing wall face which fronted onto the basement, with a less substantial face to the rear, which suggested that the wall had been built as a free-standing structure, with infilling of the void to the rear occurring after its construction.
- 7. For a depth of 1m below the upper surface of modern concrete slab [103], Wall [101] was broader, measuring 0.6m in thickness. Here it cut an earlier wall (Figure 2a), Wall [102], which formed the E-facing wall of Building 1 which had been identified as potentially representing an earlier structure during the historic building recording element of the works. Of interest within the fabric of Wall [101] were occasional squared blocks of sandstone, with distinctive horizontal broaching across one face. These are likely to represent displaced quoins or margins re-used from an earlier structure (or structures), which judging by the character of the tool marks is likely to have been late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. On one example the broached surface was covered with cream paint identical in shade to the rest of the basement wall, which confirmed its inclusion within the actual later wall fabric (Figure 3a).
- 8. Throughout much of the area of interest, the sediment to the rear of [101] comprised an undifferentiated mid-greyish-brown silty sand (001). This sediment had the character of made ground, but although there were frequent coal flecks present, no artefacts were recovered which could help date the deposit. This undifferentiated fill extended westwards from the line of Flue [006], which is discussed in greater detail below. To the east of Flue [006], the undifferentiated (001) was no longer present: instead, two distinct though similar deposits occurred to the rear of Wall [101]. Both comprised a dark, yellow-brown clay sand: the uppermost layer, (009), which measured a maximum of 0.7m in depth, was differentiated from the lowermost layer (010), which measured a maximum of 1.4m in depth, by the notably higher frequency of stone (comprising shattered fragments of sandstone and whinstone) and coal occurring in (010). (010) in turn overlay bedrock (002), which comprised a hard, compact mid-grey sandstone.
- 9. At the south end of the exposed section, bedrock (002) lay 0.8m below the lowermost edge of [102], and roughly 1.2m below the level of concrete slab [103], which had formed the original ground floor level of Building 4. This contrasted with the north end, where it abutted Wall [101]. Here it lay 1.8m below the lowermost course of Wall [102] and around 2.5m below the concrete slab which had once formed the ground floor level of Building 4. A vertical cut [011] through bedrock (002) had been made to accommodate the base of the wall, with the bedrock entirely removed to the N of this point in order to create the basement level. The level of the bedrock was not consistent throughout the length of the trench: it rose towards the E end, appearing here at a depth of 1m below the modern concrete slab which had formed the ground floor of the recently-demolished building. Here Cut [011] had been extended back to remove bedrock to a depth of 1m it is possible that similar removal of had occurred further to the W, but that the rise in the bedrock occurred further to the S, outwith the extent of the excavation.
- 10. Two features were noted within the sediments which occurred to the rear of Wall [101]. The first comprised a small flue of square section, Flue [003] (Figures 3b and 4a). This measured 0.2 x 0.2m in extent, and comprised a flat base of rectangular sandstone slabs [005], placed end-on, with sides comprising three courses of handmade brick [004], laid in stretcher bond, and capped with another row of rectangular sandstone slabs [006], again placed end-on. A small deposit of ash and soot (007) remained *in situ* over the base of the flue.

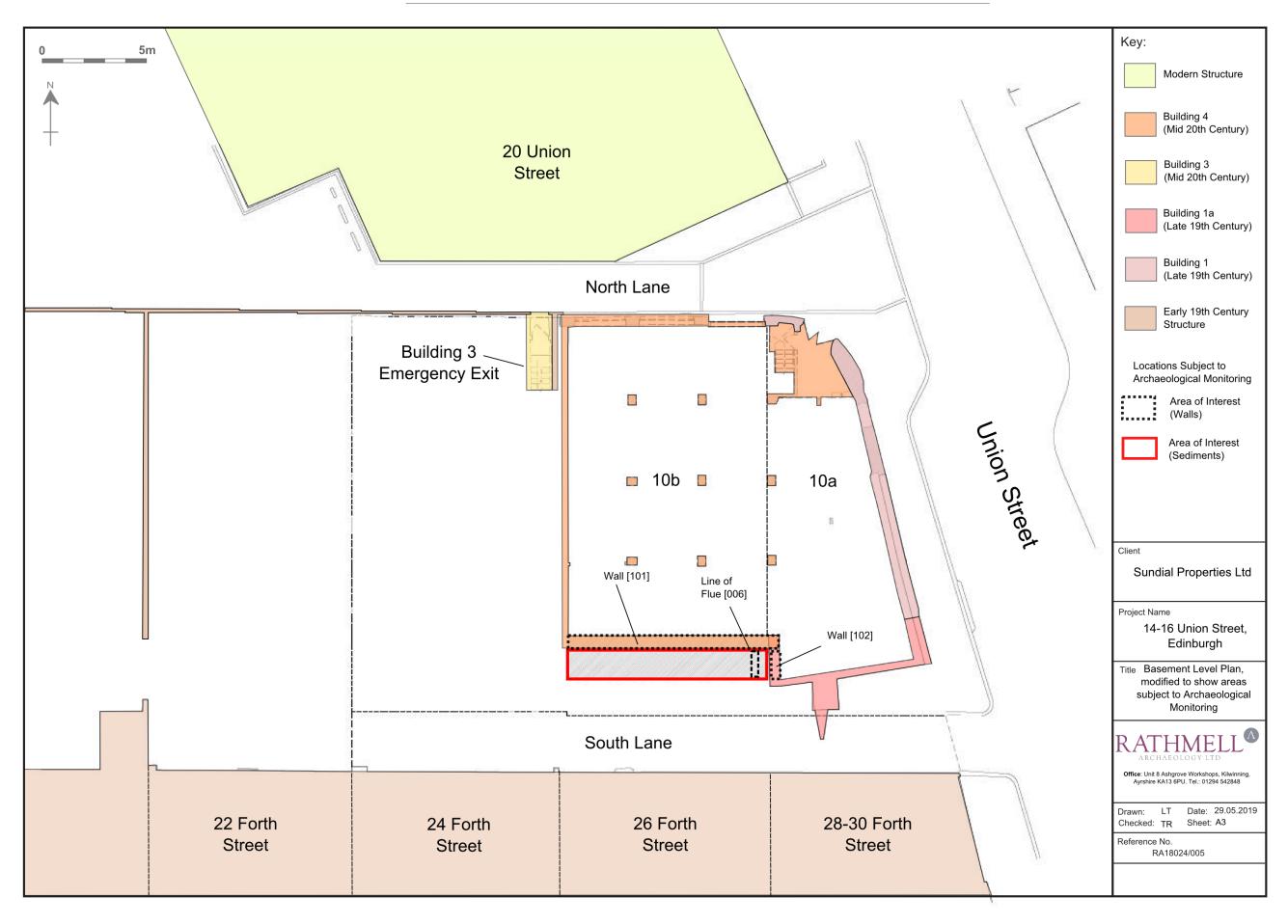


Figure 1: Plan Showing Extent of Archaeological Monitoring



Figure 2a: Wall [101] in process of demolition (N-facing wall, Buildings 4/1a)



Figure 2b:W-Facing Section through area of interest, showing Wall [101] cutting through Wall [102]. Wall [101] in section, and sediments (009) and (010) over bedrock (002)



Figure 3a: Fragment of 18<sup>th</sup> century quoin or margin, incorporated into Wall [101]



Figure 3b: Flue [006] revealed within made ground deposit (001)

- 11. The flue was set at a high level within the basement wall, at a depth of 0.66m below the relict concrete slab [103]. It sat virtually flush on its eastern side with Wall [102]: the different character of the sediments to its immediate east supported the possibility already inferred by the fact that Wall [101] cut the line of Wall [102]- that the creation of the basement area associated with Building 1a post-dated Wall [102]. This could then infer that (009) formed the fill of a foundation cut for [102], but this is by no means certain, as there is evidence that Wall [102] had itself been substantially modified during its history.
- 12. The other feature of interest was the line of a terracotta field drain, which had been placed at the base of Wall [101] within foundation cut [011]. This was exposed at the base of the excavation, and appeared to have been incorporated at basal level within the wall fabric.

#### Discussion

- 13. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were discovered within the monitored area. The works did, however, yield further insights into the earlier buildings which had originally occupied the site and helped illustrate how these buildings changed over time as the site was successively altered.
- 14. At least two, and potentially three, phases of wall-building were identified. Wall [102] the E-facing wall of Building 1 was the earliest structure, with the W-facing section clearly showing that it was cut by Wall [101], but Wall [102] was itself complex in nature, with the W-facing section and the E-facing elevation appearing entirely different in character. Viewed from the W, Wall [102] displayed a snecked rubble face 0.5m high (maximum 4 courses) which directly overlay made ground deposits (009) and (010). Viewed from the E, however, the sandstone element of Wall [101] formed only the upper part of a much deeper basement (Figure 4a) roughly 2.5m in depth, with the lowermost 2m composed of regular courses of handmade brick (characterised as Wall [102]a).
- 15. The differing character of these two fabrics, coupled with the fact that the character of the wall differed so markedly depending on which face was being viewed, indicated that the wall did not represent a single phase of building. Rather, it seems likely that the sandstone element [102] represented a pre-existing found which had been left in place while the sediments and bedrock below were dug away to create a basement which was then faced with handmade bricks to form [102]a.
- 16. The snecked sandstone rubble of [102] was consistent with early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century construction, but it could conceivably have been earlier, with the brick basement inserted prior to 1850. At a later stage, the E-W aligned Wall [101] was added, cutting through the N end of [102] and potentially marking the initial consolidation of Building 1 and Building 1a into one conjoined structure. The incorporation of tooled ashlar blocks within the fabric of Wall [101] (though not within the fabric of Wall [102]) suggests that the fabric derived from the demolished remains of an earlier structure. From the nature of the tooling, which comprised horizontal broaching with contrasting broached margins, we can surmise that these blocks were derived from quoins and/or door/window margins of late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, potentially representing an earlier building which once occupied the site.
- 17. The relationship between the various elements of walling has now been demonstrated, but it is hard to establish precise dates for the various elements, with the exception of Wall [101], which has fragments of late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century character within its fabric. It is possible that the snecked rubble wall [101] represents the relict foundations of this earlier structure, but this cannot be confidently established with the evidence available. It is likely, however, that the brick element of Wall [102] [102]a represents a different phase of build to that of Wall [101] as the fabric is entirely different in composition.
- 18. Our attention must now turn to the deposits which characterised the sediments to the rear of Walls [101] and [102]. These were characterised variously as (001), (009) and (010), with (001) representing the undifferentiated deposit W of Flue [003], and (009)/(010) representing the two distinct deposits to the E of the flue. All were very similar in character, with (010) differentiated only by a slightly higher stone content. All may therefore represent a contemporary dump of material: the fact that Flue [003] was set within the

made ground deposits (001)/(009)/(010) suggests that their deposition was contemporary with the creation of the flue, and potentially the construction of Wall [101], where the flue was seamlessly placed (contrast this with Wall [102], where a circular duct had been inserted at a much later date). This would suggest that deposits (001)/(009) and (010) all represent backfill from the same event, namely, the lowering of the ground level to create the basement of what would later become Building 4. These made ground deposits directly overlay bedrock (002), which meant that any pre-existing soil horizons had been entirely removed as part of the construction activities. The bedrock itself appears to have been occurring at a relatively high level, at the E end of the excavated area in particular, where it was present only 0.5m below the base of Wall [101] in the W-facing section. Evidence of a cut [011] was present, with the bedrock cut vertically and levelled to accommodate the basement floor and defining wall, and the cut extended to the rear, This appears to have taken place as part of wider landscaping work carried out on the line of South Lane at the time Wall [101] was constructed during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

- 19. The red earthenware field drain (008) appeared to be directly related to Wall [101]. It sat to the rear (N) of the wall, within cut [011] within bedrock (002) which had been cut to accommodate the wall. The drain formed a coherent feature, and its close association with both wall and slot indicated that it had been inserted as part of the build process, presumably to help prevent water ingress into the basement area.
- 20. In summary, this additional archaeological monitoring provided further clarification with regards to the standing structures that had previously stood upon this portion of the site. It demonstrated that the earliest element of the structure comprised an earlier snecked rubble foundation wall [102] which was subsequently incorporated into a predominantly brick basement (with the brick component characterised as [102]a), which was then amalgamated into a larger basement feature when a basement was inserted into the neighbouring building. This resulted in the creation of Wall [101] which itself involved the removal of any earlier soil horizons and the lowering and levelling of bedrock (002). Establishing a date range for these activities is difficult: the presence of a low level flue [003] suggests a late 19<sup>th</sup> century date for Wall [101], with the presence of an earlier, late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century building on the site potentially evidence by the worked ashlar blocks incorporated within Wall [101]'s fabric. The upper courses of Wall [102] representing the earliest phase of construction on the site may be all that survives of this earlier building, but this is by no means certain.

#### Conclusion

- 21. This Data Structure Report has been prepared for Sundial Properties (Gilmerton) Ltd. in order to report archaeological works undertaken at 14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh. arising from the partial demolition and refurbishment of properties at 14-16 Union Street and 24 Forth Street, Edinburgh. The works were required as these properties were located within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site and the New Town Conservation Area.
- 22. The works did not reveal any significant archaeological features or deposits. Further information relating to the surviving fabric of earlier buildings which once occupied the site was, however, revealed: this demonstrated three phases on construction, which commenced with a N-S running snecked rubble sandstone foundation [102], which was subsequently incorporated into a later basement wall [102]a. This structure subsequently became incorporated into a larger basement feature through the addition of E-W running Wall [101]. The incorporation of hand-tooled ashlar blocks of late 18<sup>th</sup> /early 19<sup>th</sup> century date within Wall [101] indicates that [101] must be later in date (perhaps late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century) with the distinctive hand-tooled masonry perhaps representing the remains of an earlier structure which once stood on the site, and which may have survived in relict form as the upper courses of Wall [101].
- 23. With the completion of this report which summarises these archaeological works, it is proposed that the requirements of the appended condition specified by the Curator (17/03993/FUL) have now been fulfilled. No further work is recommended.



Figure 4a: Detail of Flue [006]



Figure 4b: Wall [101], E Elevation, showing snecked rubble upper section over brick below

#### Recommendations

- 24. This Data Structure Report covers archaeological works undertaken in support of archaeological mitigation works carried out for Sundial Properties (Gilmerton) Ltd., as part of a wider programme of works arising from the partial demolition and refurbishment of properties at 14-16 Union Street and 24 Forth Street, Edinburgh. The works were required as these properties were located within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site and the New Town Conservation Area.
- 25. No significant archaeological features or artefacts were identified in the course of monitoring the substantive ground breaking works associated with the build. As such, we recommend that no further archaeological works are appropriate. On this basis we recommend that the planning condition relating to archaeology, appended to Planning Ref. 17/03993/FUL, is considered to be fulfilled.
- 26. The appropriateness and acceptability of our recommendations rest with the representative of the City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service.

#### References

McKinstry, L 2018a 14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh, Historic Building Recording: Data Structure Report Unpublished report, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd

McKinstry, L 2018b 14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh: WSI Addendum No. 1. Unpublished document, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

Rees, T 2018 14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh, Archaeological Mitigation: Written Scheme of Investigation Unpublished report, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.

# Appendix 1: Registers

Within this appendix are all registers pertaining to works on-site during the watching brief.

#### Context Register

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
001	Deposit	Mid grey-brown silty sand, with infrequent angular chunks of sandstone and whinstone, 1.2m deep.	Made ground to west of Flue [003]. Probably represents same deposit as (009)
002	Deposit	Dense, compact fine-grained rock, shattered surface in places. Reached at uniform depth of 1.2m below modern ground surface.	Bedrock (natural)
003	O3 Structure Flue, composed of brick walls (004), slabbed stone base (004) and capstone (005), 0.6m wide and 0.5m high. Extends from face of Wall [101] to rear of excavated area (distance of 1.5m)		Flue, late 19th century.
004	Structure	Two parallel lines of red brick, three courses high each side, defining central area 0.3m wide and 0.3m high.	Side walls of flue
005	Structure	Single layer of broached sandstone slabs (0.5m x 0.3 in extent) laid end-to-end.	Base of flue
006	Structure	tructure Single layer of broached sandstone slabs (0.5m x 0.3 in extent) laid end- to-end. Capping of flue	
007	Deposit	Mixed black/grey soot/ash 0.05m deep.	Deposit at base of flue.
008	Structure	Red earthenware circular-sectioned pipes, running E-W and laid in single row to rear of Wall [101]	Field drain placed to drain made ground to rear of basement
009	Deposit	Mid grey-brown silty sand, with infrequent angular chunks of sandstone and whinstone, 0.6m deep.	Made ground to east of Flue [003]. Probably represents same deposit as (001), but in this case overlies (010)
010	Deposit	Mid grey-brown silty sand, with frequent angular chunks of sandstone and whinstone, 0.6m deep.	Made ground to east of Flue [003]. Similar to (0010 and (009), but with higher stone content. Underlies (010)
011	Cut	Linear cut through (002) running E-W on line of Wall [101] and sitting immediately to its rear	Foundation cut of basement wall [101]
012	Deposit	Dark yellow-brown sandy silt, no inclusions, locally occurring in vicinity of Wall [101]	Fill of foundation cut [011], potentially comprising washed out remnants of decayed mortar

Context	Туре	Description	Interpretation
101	Structure	E-W running wall of snecked sandstone rubble 2.5m high and 0.6m wide at base. Incorporates occasional fragments of broached sandstone ashlar blocks, which would have formed quoins or margins of an earlier late 18th/early 19th century building. Interior face painted cream.	Basement wall of Building 3 (as per McKinstry 2018a), probable late 19th or early 20th century date.
102	Structure	N-S running wall of varying character 2.5m high. The uppermost 5 courses (measuring 0.5m in depth) are composed of snecked sandstone rubble [102], with the lower portion composed of handmade brick, obscured by mortar buildup [102]a.	Basement wall of Building 1a (as per McKinstry 2018a), comprising relict foundation of early 19th date, with basement created below and revetted with brick.

## Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Area/ Trench	Drawing Type	Scale	Description
001	1	-	Section	1:20	W-Facing Section through N-Facing Wall [101], Building 4
002	2		Elevation	1:20	E-facing Elevation of relict N-S Wall [102], Building 1a
003	2		Section	1:20	N-Facing Section through Flue [006]
004	3		Section	1:20	W-Facing Section to rear of relict N-S Wall [102], Building 1a

# Photographic Register

Image No.	Digital	Description		Date
1	0369	General View of Site	SE	27/03/19
2	0370	Section of Basement Wall [101] and sediment to rear	W	27/03/19
3	0371	As above, wider view	W	27/03/19
4	0372	E-Facing Wall [102]	Е	27/03/19
5	0373	As above	E	27/03/19

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
6	0374	Detail of Later Service Duct, Inserted into upper courses of Wall [102]	E	27/03/19
7	0375	Flue [006] revealed in section	N	27/02/19
8	0376	As above, in wider setting	NNW	27/03/19
9	0377	As above, in wider setting	N	27/03/19
10	0378	Downtaking of Wall [101], General View	NE	27/03/19
11	0379	Downtaking of Wall [101], General View	NW	27/03/19
12	0380	Wall [101] removed and flue [006] exposed	N	27/03/19
13	0381	Broached sandstone block (margin or quoin) ex situ	W/vert	27/03/19
14	0382	Downtaking of Wall [101], General View	NW	27/03/19
15	0383	Section through (001) following removal of Wall [101]	NW	27/03/19
16	0384	Flue structure [006] exposed following removal of (001)	W	27/03/19
17	0385	As above	W	27/03/19
18	0386	Cross-section through Flue [006]	W	27/03/19
19	0387	As above	W	27/03/19
20	0388	'L'-shaped worked stone, ex situ	N/vert	27/03/19
21	0389	'L'-shaped worked stone, indented (front face)	E/Vert	27/03/19
22	0390	View of Flue [006] exposed	W	27/03/19
23	0391	Detailed view of Capstone from Flue, ex situ	NW	27/03/19
24	0392	Close-up showing exposed Flue [006]	W	27/03/19
25	0393	E-W aligned wall at rear S wall of Building 1a, with coal chute	N	27/03/19
26	0394	As above, detailed view of coal chute	N	27/03/19
27	0395	General view of SE corner of site	NW	27/03/19

Image No.	Digital	Description	From	Date
28	0396	Detailed view of snecked rubble masonry in upper courses of Wall [102]	Е	27/03/19

# Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	RA18024
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Louise Turner
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 26009 74550
START DATE (this season)	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
END DATE (this season)	27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	Archaeological monitoring took place during the demolition of 19 <sup>th</sup> century basement walls at 14-16 Union Street, Edinburgh, within the World Heritage Site of Edinburgh Old and New Towns. These walls formed part of earlier buildings which had been previously investigated by an earlier historic building recording exercise carried out by Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.
	The walls formed the southern edge of Buildings 1a and 3 as characterised in the earlier recording exercise. Three phases of construction were evident, with the earliest phase comprising a N-S running snecked sandstone rubble foundation (from Building 1a) which extended 0.5m below modern ground floor level. This line of this wall had been extended downwards through the insertion of a lower brick wall to create a basement. The N end of this wall was in turn cut by a snecked sandstone rubble E-W running wall which formed the S edge of Building 3. This later fabric incorporated worked ashlar blocks derived from the quoins or margins of a late 18th or early 19th century building which may once have occupied the same site. A stone-capped, brick-lined flue had been built into this wall, supporting a late 19th or early 10th century date for the structure. Between the walls and the line of South Lane to the rear, the subsurface deposits comprised made ground over bedrock, the latter apparently levelled to create a flat surface.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Sundial Properties (Gilmerton) Ltd.
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU

E MAIL:	contact@rathmell-arch.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to City of Edinburgh Archaeology Service and archive to National Record of the Historic Environment

#### **Contact Details**

27. Rathmell Archaeology can be contacted at our Registered Office or through the web:

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