

CFA Archaeology Ltd

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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove,
Morningside, Edinburgh**

**Historic Building Report
No 2033**

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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standard operating procedures.

**Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove,
Morningside, Edinburgh**

Historic Building Survey

Report No 2033

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a Level 1 Photographic Survey undertaken in March 2012 by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at Braid Church, 1 Nile Gove, Morningside, Edinburgh (NT 24610 71070) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by G1 Architects. Listed Building consent has been granted for the conversion of the church and hall into a restaurant and performing arts centre. The conversion will include the removal of pews and ramped church floors along with the installation of new toilets. The City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS) considers the site to be of local historical interest and as such they have requested that a Level 1 (English Heritage 2006) standing building recording survey be carried out prior to its conversion.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was approved by CECAS.

1.2 Background

Architectural character

Formerly under the ownership of the Church of Scotland, Braid Church is a Category B Listed structure that was designed by George Washington Browne in 1886. The octagonal church is constructed of squared and snecked red sandstone with a Renaissance style pedimented ashlar front with a semi-circular portico with flanking red sandstone Roman Ionic columns. Rising either side of the pediment are two large bellcotes with pyramidal stone roofs that flank the main elevation. The church auditorium is surrounded by a timber gallery on square wooden columns. The clerestory windows are framed by plain cornices. The pulpit and lectern were plain (now removed). The vestibule is compartmentalised with a barrel vault. A smaller church hall with an open timber roof on stone corbels is connected to the main church. The Statutory List also includes the boundary wall which is rubble-built with plain cast-iron railings and gates with small thistle finials.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the standing building survey were:

1. To carry out a desk-based assessment to place the church in its historical and architectural setting.
2. To carry out a Level 1 photographic survey of the church and small church hall prior to its alteration
3. To produce an illustrated report outlining the results of the work.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and Standards and Guidelines for Historic Building Surveys as appropriate.

2.2 Building Survey

Desk-based assessment

A desk-based assessment has already been undertaken by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments (RCAHMS) Threatened Building Survey. For the purpose of this survey report an assessment of readily available sources were consulted and included the following:

- Historic Scotland's Statutory List
- The National Monument Record of Scotland (NMRS)

2.3 Historic Building Survey

A Level 1 Building Survey (English Heritage 2006) was carried out. This essentially comprised a photographic survey of the church and church hall linked to a series of annotated architectural ground and floor plans.

The photographic survey included the elements listed in Table 1. A D300 digital camera was used using both flash and natural lighting. Measurements were obtained using a hand-held Lieca distometer. The orientation of the photographs taken are shown on Figs 2a-c.

RECORDING ELEMENT	PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY
General location/topographical setting	Level 1
All exterior elevations	Level 1
All interior elevations	Level 1
Internal rooms/partitions	Level 1
Church and Vestibule	Level 1
Fixtures, fittings & seating layout	Level 1

Table 1 Photographic recording requirements

3. DESK-BASED SURVEY RESULTS

3.1 Historic Scotland's Statutory List

The Statutory List records Braid Church as a Category B Listed Building (HB No. 27655 14 December 1970). The church was designed by George Washington Browne in 1886. The church is octagonal with central bellcote and Italian Renaissance details, set diagonally to the corner of Nile Grove. Two church halls are present on the north side of the church.

Church Exterior details as described in the Statutory List

The church is constructed of squared and snecked red sandstone rubble with cream ashlar dressings. The principal ground floor windows have chamfered and rounded arrises and corniced first floor windows. The eaves are also corniced. The south-west (front) elevation as a pedimented ashlar front with a semi-circular portico on coupled red sandstone Roman ionic columns. The entrance has a dentiled cornice and balustrade parapet. Below the parapet the architraved entrance is surrounded by pilasters dividing three paneled doors. A large moulded Venetian window with egg and dart cornice above framed flat pilasters is framed by two stair towers. The towers are surmounted by large round-arched ashlar birdcage bellcotes with finialled pyramidal stone roofs.

The south-east-facing elevation incorporates three faces of an octagon with a sill course at first floor level with breaking eaves over corniced Venetian windows flanked by pilasters of banded rubble. The windows are tripartite with a bipartite window on the ground floor. The north-west-facing elevation has the same detail as the south-east facing elevation.

The north-east (rear) elevation is occupied by the organ chamber and is mainly featureless.

Church Interior details as described in the Statutory List

The interior of the church has a raked auditorium with a curving timber gallery on square wooden columns. Corniced angle pilasters lead up to the paneled ribs of a shallow octagonal dome with a central ornamental ventilation grille. The entablature clerestory windows are framed by plain cornices. The numbered church pews are plain timber and follow the curve of the church floor. The pulpet, lectern and communion had been removed at the time of the survey but they are described as being of plain timber. The vestibule has a compartmentalised barrel vault with short marbled wooden columns dividing the stair openings on each side.

Church Halls

Two church halls are set obliquely on the north side of the church and are linked to the church through passages on their west sides. Both halls are single storey. The Small Hall has an ashlar gable with pediment and a piend roof. Two bipartite windows divided by flat pilasters and a tall pedimented centre bay has angled

pilasters. The roof ridge incorporates a decorative galleried ventilator with ogee cupola.

The Large Hall is rubble built with a black slate piend roof with two single windows and an entrance door on the east elevation (now a fire exit). The fenestration comprises small-pane timber casements with leaded glazing.

The Statutory List also includes the low rubble-built boundary walls that incorporate plain cast-iron railings and the gates inset with fish and dove motifs and small thistle finials on the main gate.

3.2 The National Monument Record of Scotland (NMRS)

The NMRS holds record NT27SW 1397.00 for the church with sub-entries NT27SW 1397.01 and NT27SW 1397.02 for the two halls. The record includes references for three photograph one of which is an undated scan of a colour slide. The other two photographs include a general view of the church taken in 1956 and a view of the church interior showing the pews, communion table, font, chairs and lectern in 1930. A sketch of the minister's chair and font is attributed to Scott Morton and dated to 1900.

4. BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS

4.1 General

Figure 2a and 3b-c shows the ground and first floor plans of the church and the Large and Small Halls. These figures show the unit numbers ascribed to the rooms below. The dimensions of the individual rooms within each building are listed in Table 2. Summary descriptions of each unit are listed in Table 3.

Building	Unit No.	Room/feature	Dimensions (L x B x H)
Church	1	Vestibule	12.2m x 3.7m x 4.2m
Church	2	Below stairs cupboard	3m x 2m
Church	3	Below stairs cupboard	3m x 2m
Church	4	Nave	18.6m x 18.3m x 11.1m
Church	5	Vestry	4.6m x 3.1m x 2.6m
Church & Hall	6	Hallway	15.7m x 1.5m x 3m
Small Hall	7	Small Hall	12.4m x 8.2m x 4.9m
Small Hall	8	Toilet block	Average 3m x 2.5
Small & Large Hall	9	Hallway	12.5m x 1.7m x 3m
Large Hall	10	Large Hall	15.7m x 10.2m x 6.2m
Large Hall	11	Session Room	6.4m x 4.5m x 3.6m
Large Hall	12	Kitchen	6.4m x 3.2m x 3.6m
Church	13	Basement entrance	1.9 x 1.8 x 2.3m
Church	14	Boiler Room	5.4m x 2.4m x 2.3m
Church	15	Organ pump room	5.3m x 2.4m x 2.3

Table 2 Summary table of individual room/feature dimensions

4.2 Exterior architectural character

The architectural descriptions are adequately described in Historic Scotland's Statutory List and need not be repeated here. The principal south-west facing elevation is the most impressive with its column- flanked entrance with balustrade above (Fig 3). The Italianate windows have a pediment which is advanced. The columns and stair turrets break the strong angular footprint of the church. Set back are the two bellcotes with bird-cage openings (Fig 3). The side elevations (south-east and north-west) are broken by the large clerestory windows and the curve of the stair towers (Fig 4-5). The hall elevations are plain with the exception of the west-facing elevation of the Small Hall. The ashlar-built façade has four bays surmounted by pilasters below the pediment (Fig 6). The north-east facing elevation of the church includes the clerestory windows (Fig 7). The main entrance gate (Fig 8) has a dove and fish motif and is flanked by a low wall with chamfered coping stones.

Unit No.	Room/feature	Summary description
1	Vestibule (Fig. 9)	The main entrance has three sets of double-leafed doors. The ceiling is barrel vaulted broken by regular inset panels. A below stairs cupboard and stairs to the first floor is present at each end. The stairs are flanked by columns resting on a rectangular base. A brass memorial plaque is present on rear (south-west facing wall) which is dedicated to the first minister of the church. Two leather clad doors lead into the auditorium.
2	Below stairs cupboard	A semi-circular shaped cupboard lit by a six paned blind window. Coat hooks on rear wall. The main door is six-panelled.
3	Below stairs cupboard	A semi-circular shaped cupboard lit by a six paned blind window. Coat hooks on rear wall. The main door is six-panelled.
4	Auditorium (nave) (Figs. 10-13)	The auditorium is lit on all sides by large Italianate windows with both square and round heads. The north-east facing elevation has a central round-headed window flanked by a pair of square headed windows. The floor of the nave is ramped as is the first floor. The wooden pews curve gently in order to conform to the floor layout. The central isle has 13 rows, with 9 and 11 rows on the north and south sides respectively. The rose-red painted octagonal ceiling is heavily moulded to emphasise the individual panels. The altar has a wooden classical facade with pediment and a large arched frieze exposing the rows of organ pipes. The organ console has been removed but it was located on the east side of the chancel. The balcony is broken by simple panels with a clock at its centre. The floor of the balcony has 10 rows of pews at its centre flanked on each side by four rows. Doors midway along the balcony floor lead out to the ground floor.
5	Vestry	The vestry is triangular in shape with a blocked fireplace on the south –facing elevation. The room is lit by a six-over-two sash-and-case window. A cupboard and door leading to the roof space are also present.
6	Hallway	The hallway has pink and grey painted walls with a door to the vestry and nave. Two doors lead off to the Small Hall.
7	Small Hall (Fig. 14)	The Small Hall is lit by roof lights in the mansard shaped roof. Three wooden hammer-beams rest on stone corbels. The cream painted walls are broken by a wooden dado rail. A blind window is present at the west end. The window is leaded and has frosted glass. A scar where a crucifix was present is present in the middle of the wall. The floor is parquet and marked out for recreational games.
8	Toilet block	A toilet block accessed of a hallway comprising ladies, gents and disabled toilets. All toilets are lined with modern Formica panelling. The sanitary fixtures and fittings are also modern.
9	Hallway	A hallway between the Large and Small Halls with white painted walls and doors leading off the north wall to the Large Hall (Unit 10) Kitchen (Unit 11) and Session Room (Unit 12). On the south wall doors leads to the Small Hall (Unit 7 and the toilet block (Unit 8).
10	Large Hall (Fig. 15)	The walls are panelled on the lower half to a height of 1.2m. The hall is lit by four-paned roof lights within the mansard-shaped ceiling. Each plastered roof beam rests on a short pilaster with moulded scrolled corbel. A cornice and architrave run between the pilasters. At the west end of the hall there is a wooden panelled balcony accessed by an

		exterior staircase. The parquet floor is marked out for recreational games.
11	Session Room	The Session Room is lit on the west wall by three nine-over-two paned sash-and-case windows. A plain blocked fireplace occupied the opposite wall. The moulded cornice has an egg-and-dart motif.
12	Kitchen	The kitchen has pastel-green painted walls with an egg-and-dart cornice. A dado rail is present on the south wall. All fixtures and fittings are modern.
13	Basement entrance	The entrance to the church basement has plaster-lined walls. A blocked coal chute is present on the east wall. The entrance into the adjoining boiler room (Unit 14) is through a door in a brick partition wall.
14	Boiler Room (Fig. 16)	The boiler room has a barrel-vaulted roof with plaster over stone. The room has a blind window on the east wall. The room is fitted out with electrical boilers and the south wall is lined with electrical switches.
15	Organ pump room (Fig. 17)	The organ pump room has a barrel-vaulted ceiling with a blind window on the east wall. The floor is occupied by an electrical driven organ pump within a wooden framework.

Table 3 Unit function and summary description

5. CONCLUSION

The photographic survey has adequately recorded the architectural form and character of Braid Church and halls before their conversion.

In accordance with the terms of the WSI approved by the CECAS the survey has now been completed. An online OASIS entry and submission to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland has been made to disseminate the results of the survey (Appendix 2).

6. REFERENCE

English Heritage 2006 English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording Practice*. London.

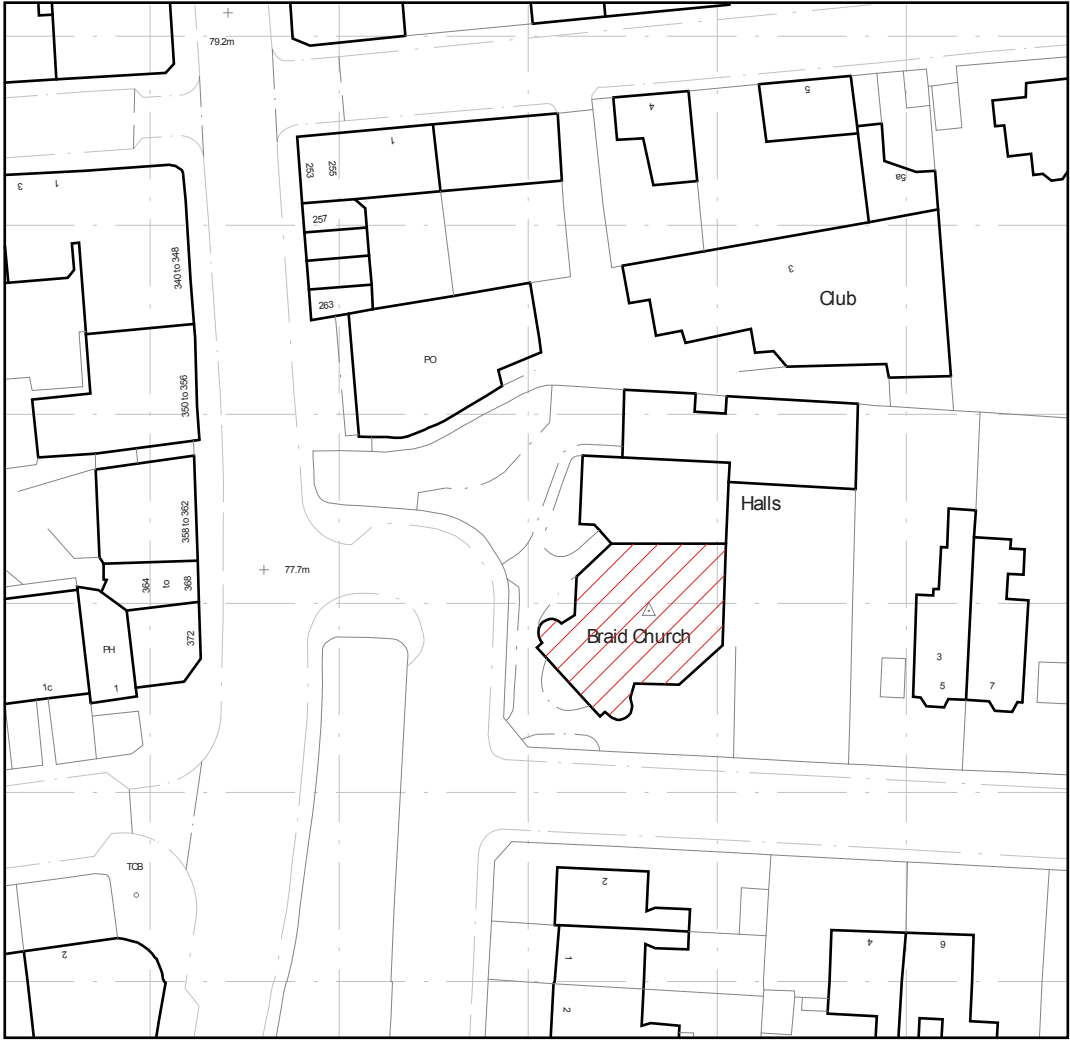
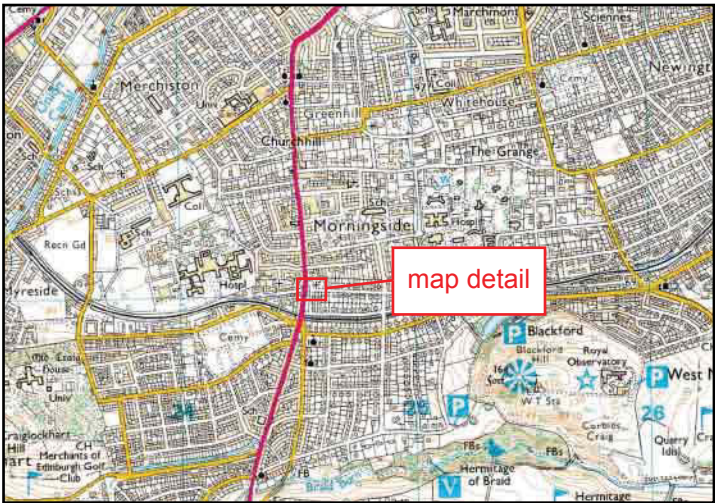
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Image	Location	Detail	Taken from
001	Vestibule	Staircase and understairs cloakroom	SE
002-003	Vestibule	Vestibule south-west facing elevation	SW
004	Vestibule	Memorial plaque on the south-west facing elevation	SW
005	Vestibule	Cloakroom interior	NE
006	Vestibule	General view of staircase	NW
007	Vestibule	Understairs cloakroom	NW
008	Vestibule	Double-leaved doorways	NE
009	Vestibule	Door to church ground floor	SW
010-011	Church	General view of the altar and organ pipes	SW
012-014	Church	General view of the church pews and upper gallery	NE
015-016	Church	General view of the church interior	S
017-019	Church	General view of the church interior	NW
020	Church	Detail of corbel and gallery support member	SE
021-022	Church	General view of the ceiling ornamentation	vertical
023	Church	Gallery and clock taken from the altar	NE
024	Church gallery	Looking down on to the altar from gallery rail	SW
025	Church gallery	Looking down on to the church floor and altar	SE
026	Church gallery	Looking down on to the church floor and altar	NW
027	Church gallery	Looking across the gallery banister	NW
028	Church gallery	Looking towards the rear of the gallery	E
029	Church gallery	General view of the east-facing windows of the church	E
030	Church gallery	General view of the window at the rear of the gallery	NE
031	Church gallery	General shot of the gallery pews	SE
032	Church gallery	General shot of the windows lighting the church	SE
033	Vestibule	Stone staircase to gallery	NW
034	Stairs landing	Landing and door to gallery	SE
035	Stairs landing	Looking down the stairs and window detail	N
036	Vestry	Doorway and cupboard door	SE
037	Vestry	Interior window and blocked fireplace	NW
038	Hallway	General view looking along the hallway	E
039	Hallway	General view looking along the hallway	W
040	Small Hall	General view of the Small Hall interior east-facing wall	E
041	Small Hall	General view of the Small Hall interior south-facing wall	S
042	Small Hall	General view of the Small Hall interior west-facing wall	W
043	Small Hall	General view of the Small Hall interior north-facing wall	N
044	Small Hall	Five panelled door leading into the Small Hall	SW
045	Hallway to toilets	Hallway to toilet block	N
046	Gents toilet	General view of the interior	W
047	Ladies toilet	General view of the interior	W
048	Disabled toilet	General view of the interior	W
049	Hallway	General view of the Hall hallway	W
050	Hallway	General view of the Hall hallway	E
051	Large Hall	General view of the east-facing gallery in the Large Hallway	E
052	Large Hall	General view of the south-facing elevation	S
053	Large Hall	General view of the west-facing elevation	W
054	Large Hall	General view of the north-facing elevation	N
055	Large Hall	Ornamented pilaster below the cornice	S

056	Large Hall	Wooden panelled gallery within the main hall	E
057	Session Room	General interior detail	S
058	Session Room	General interior detail	N
059	Session Room	General view of the blocked fireplace	W
060	Kitchen	General interior detail	S
061	Kitchen	General interior detail	N
062	Cellar staircase	General view of cellar staircase below the Large Hall	S
063	Halls Basement	General view of cellar room	SW
064	Halls Basement	General view of the cellar room	NE
065	Halls Basement	General view of the blocked in fireplace	SW
066	Church Basement	General view of church basement Unit*	W
067	Church Basement	General view of the boiler room, Unit *	NE
068	Church Basement	General view of the boiler room, Unit	SW
069	Church Basement	General view of organ pump in Unit *	NE
070	Church Basement	General view of the blind window in Unit *	SW
071-073	Exterior	General shots of the main church facade	SW
074-075	Exterior	General shots of the north-east facing elevation	E
076	Exterior	Fenestration detail on the north-east facing elevation	E
077	Exterior	General shot of the staircase wall fabric	SE
078	Exterior	General shot of the north-east facing wall fabric and fenestration	E
079	Exterior	Staircase exterior and adjoining church wall	SE
080	Exterior	Portico pillars and balustrade	NW
081	Exterior	General view of the south-west main church elevation	SW
082	Exterior	General view of the south-west stair tower fabric	SW
083	Exterior	Doorway to passage between the Church and Hall	SW
084-085	Exterior	Church hall fabric on west-facing elevation	W
086-087	Exterior	North-facing elevation of the Church hall	W
088	Exterior	Rubble-built boundary wall on the west side of the church	W
089	Exterior	Boundary wall and street-front railings	SW
090	Exterior	Small iron gate, general shot	W
091	Exterior	Main gates in front of the Church entrance	SW
092-093	Exterior	General view along Nile Grove church railings	SW
094-095	Exterior	General views of the east-facing elevation of the church	NE

APPENDIX 2: DES ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove, Morningside, Edinburgh. Standing Building Survey
PROJECT CODE:	NILE
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Dr M Cressey
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Survey
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SW 1397.00 Church NT27SW 1397.01 Hall NT27SW 1397.02 Hall
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Church & Halls
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 24610 71070
START DATE (this season)	March 2012
END DATE (this season)	March 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>A Level 1 photographic survey was conducted at Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove, Edinburgh. The church is to be converted into a performing arts centre and restaurant. The former Church of Scotland church is a Category B Listed structure that was designed by George Washington Brown in 1886. The octagonal church is constructed of squared and snecked red sandstone with a Renaissance style pedimented ashlar front with semi-circular portico with flanking red sandstone Roman Ionic columns. Rising either side of the pediment are two large bellcotes with pyramidal stone roofs flank the main elevation. The church auditorium is surrounded by a timber gallery on square wooden columns. The clerestory windows are framed by plain cornices. The auditorium is well lit and contains a ramped floor with three isles of pews. The vestibule is compartmentalised with a barrel vault. The Statutory List also includes the boundary wall which is rubble-built with plain cast-iron railings and gates with small thistle finials, dove and fish motif.</p> <p>The survey included the two halls on the north side of the church. Both halls (known as Large and Small) are rectangular and share the same mansard-shaped ceiling. Other rooms within the hall complex include a Session Room, kitchen and toilet block. Architecturally, the small hall is more interesting with its ashlar-built south-west facing elevation.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	G1 Architects
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Business Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	mressey@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Survey reports lodged with NMRS and SMR. Archive to be deposited with NMRS.



Key:



Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: G1 Architects

Title: General location plan

Project: Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove

Scale@ A4 : 1:1000



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Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2033



Fig. 2a Ground Floor Plan with photo locations



Key:

- Unit numbers
- Photograph number and direction



Fig. No: 2a Revision: A

Title:
Braid Church plans and photo location plans

Project:
Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove

Scale at A3:
1:200

Client:
G1 Architects

Drawn by: GC Checked by: LW Report No: 2033

Key:

3 Unit numbers

23 Photograph number and direction

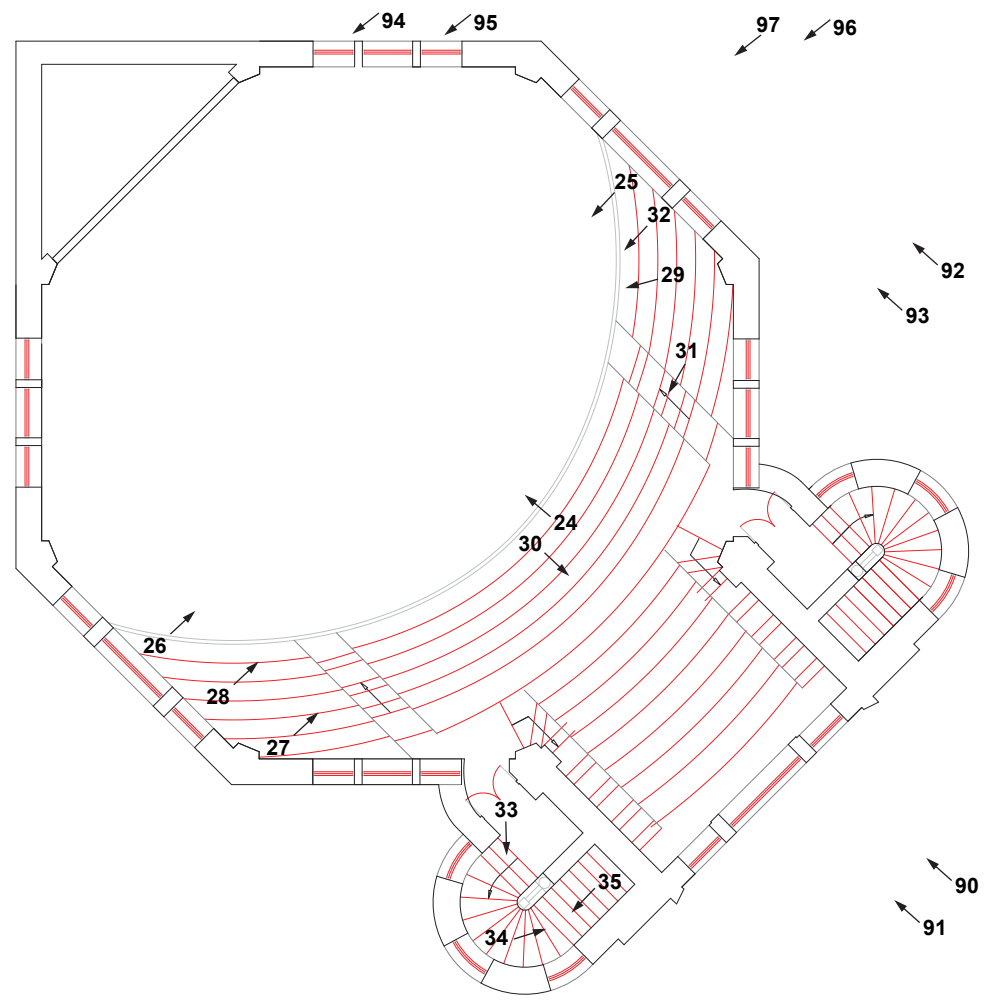


Fig. 2b First Floor Plan with photo locations

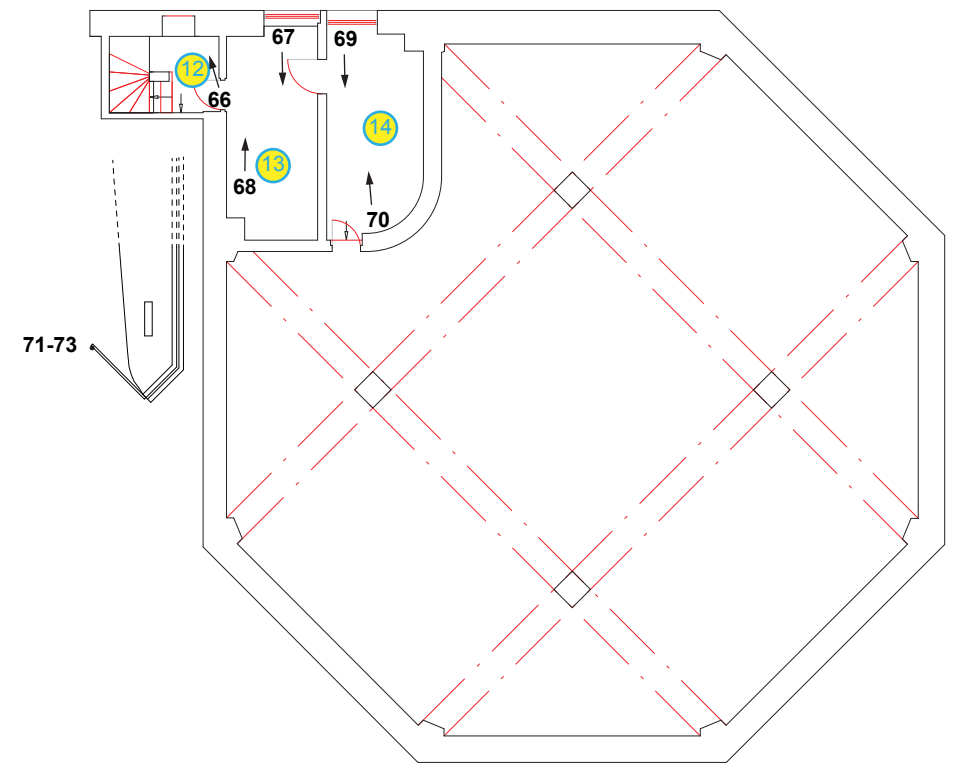


Fig. 2c Basement Floor Plan with photo locations

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Fig. No:	2b-c	Revision:	A
Title:	Braid Church plans and photo location plans		
Project:	Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove		
Scale at A3:	1:200		
Client:	G1 Architects		
Drawn by:	GC	Checked by:	LW
Report No:	2033		

Key:



Fig. 3 South-west-facing elevation of Braid Church



Fig. 4 Sneeked-built sandstone stair turret, south-east elevation



Fig. 5 South-west facing elevation of the Small Hall



Fig. 6 West-facing elevation of the Small Hall



Fig. 7 North-east facing elevation of Braid Church



Fig. 8 Listed main gates with fish and dove motif

Key:



Fig. 9 Church vestibule with painted vaulted ceiling



Fig. 10 Church chancel and altar

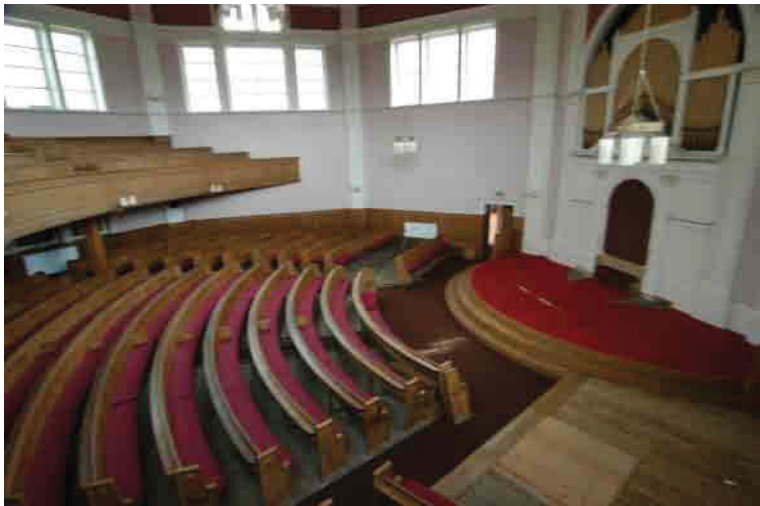


Fig. 11 Church auditorium and balcony



Fig. 12 Octagonal-shaped ceiling within the church



Fig. 14 Looking down on the altar from the east-side of the balcony




Fig. 15 Small hall showing the beams and ceiling configuration



Fig. 16 Interior view of the basement boiler room with vaulted ceiling



Fig. 17 Interior view of the basement organ pump room with vaulted ceiling

Key:	Fig. No:	16-17	Revision:	A	Client:	G1 Architects	<div><div>CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ t:0131 273 4380 f:0131 273 4381 e:info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w:www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk</div></div>
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	Project:	Braid Church, 1 Nile Grove					
Scale@ A4 :							Drawn by: GC Checked: LW Report No: 2033



NILE 001.jpg



NILE 002.jpg



NILE 003.jpg



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NILE 005.jpg



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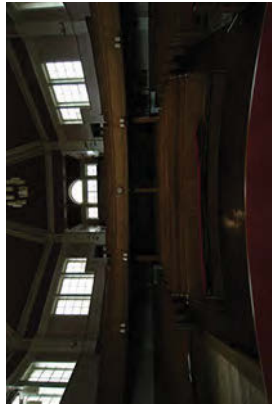
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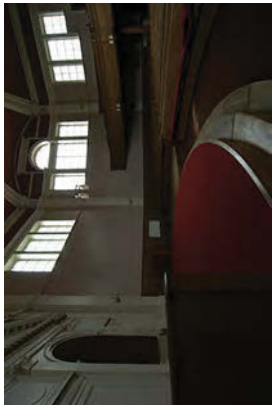
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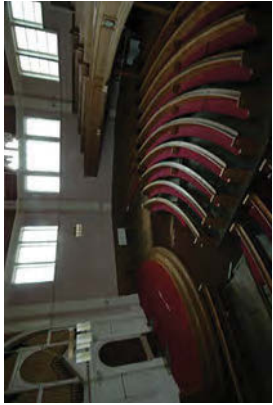
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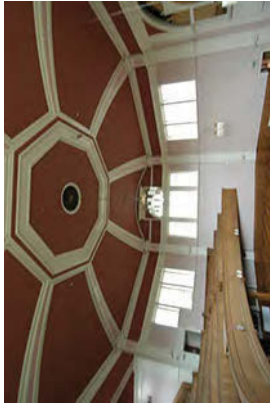
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