

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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## **Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, Water Main Installation: Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. 3143**

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**Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh,  
Water Main Installation:  
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# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between February and March 2014 at Lauriston Castle, Crammond Road South, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 20315 76100) (Fig 1). The work was commissioned by RPS.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated August 2013 covering this programme of works was produced by RPS after consultation with City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service (CECAS).

## **1.2 Site Location and Description**

The development site is located approximately 6km north-west of the centre of Edinburgh and 850m north of the A90 Queensferry Road. The development site consists primarily of formal parkland associated with Lauriston castle.

## **1.3 Archaeological & Historical Background**

The Inventoried Garden and Designed Landscape entry notes that the designed landscape was laid out between 1823-55 with additions by later owners, in particular Thomas Macknight Crawford between 1871 and 1902. There are no known designers.

In the late 13th century, the farmlands of the estate were recorded as belonging to the Crown. Since 1290, the estate has known 32 different lairds. In the late 15th century the lands belonged to the family of Lawranstoun who took their name from the estate. In 1540, they sold to the Forresters of Corstorphine who, in 1590, sold to Sir Archibald Napier of Edinbellie, Stirlingshire & Merchiston, following his second marriage to Dame Elizabeth Moubray. Sir Archibald commissioned the Tower House, the core of the present Castle; his initials are carved on a pediment above the right-hand window and his wife's initials above the top left-hand window. His son by his first marriage was John Napier (1550-1617) who invented logarithms. Sir Archibald was succeeded by his son by his second marriage, Sir Alexander, who became a Lord of Session and was titled Lord Lauriston after the sale of the estate in the early 1620s. He died in 1629 and three other families owned the estate between then and 1683 when it was bought by William Law, an Edinburgh goldsmith and financier. In the same year however, Law died. His son, John, inherited but neither he nor his successors lived there and there are no records of any tenancy during the next 140 years. John William Law sold the estate in 1823 to Thomas Allan, who commissioned William Burn to extend the Tower House to its present form. Allan died suddenly in 1833, without heirs. Two years later, the estate was bought by William Ramsay, an MP who owned the neighbouring estate of Barnton. He joined three Lauriston fields to the Barnton estate and then sold the Castle and remainder of the estate to Andrew, Lord Rutherford, (1791-1854) Solicitor General for Scotland and subsequently Lord Advocate in 1866. Between 1859-71, the residency period of Miss M.G. Mipherson Grant of Aberlour, the model dairy to the east of the house was built. Thomas Macknight Crawford purchased Lauriston in 1871, and immediately commissioned alterations to the house, among these being the creation of a link between the

coachman's quarters and the main house, thus making a side entrance. Many pieces of ornamentation were added to the house and gardens from his 17th century family home of Cartsburn.

In 1883 the OS Gazetteer described beautiful pleasure grounds around the house, although conflicting reports suggest that the house and grounds were neglected for a period before their sale to William Robert Reid in 1902. Reid was proprietor of Morison & Co, cabinet makers in Edinburgh, and it was he who 'modernised' the house and amassed the collection of Edwardian furniture which remains in the house today. He gradually reduced the number of trees in front of the house and remodelled the pond, a former quarry, decreasing its depth to make it safe. He died in 1919 and, on the death of his wife several years' later, the house and grounds were gifted to the City of Edinburgh. During the World War II, the house was occupied by the Home Guard. Since then, it has been maintained as a museum and the grounds opened for public recreation.

Lauriston Castle itself was originally constructed prior to 1600. The building is a turreted rubble-built tower-house of three-storeys with an attic, originally T-plan, measuring 40feet by 24feet. The castle was remodelled, with a large two-storey Scots-Tudor addition by William Burn in 1827. There were further additions, chiefly two porches and internal improvements in 1845, probably by W.H. Playfair. The building is listed at Category A (HB number 28019).

A sundial in the grounds is in lectern form and dates originally from 1684. It is a listed building, listed at Category B (HB number 28020).

It is deemed possible that undiscovered remains associated with these assets may have survived in the general area of the proposed new water main.

### **1.3 Objectives**

The objectives were:

- To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area; to establish their vulnerability to the proposed development; and to propose mitigation measures.

## **2. WORKING METHODS**

### **2.1 General**

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork. Recording of all elements followed established methods, as detailed in the approved WSI.

### **2.2 Watching Brief**

The ground works entailed the excavation of a trench approximately 40-60cm wide and of varying depth for the installation of a new water main which ran from the

existing main at Crammond Road South (NGR: NT 20134 70270) to the north side of the castle (NGR: NT 20312 76119) (Fig. 1).

Soil stripping was subject to a watching brief within the area of archaeological interest (Fig. 1). All groundbreaking work was carried out under constant archaeological supervision. Soil was stripped using a mini-digger tracked excavator equipped with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

### **3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS**

#### **3.1 General**

Numbers in bold and in parenthesis refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained in Appendix 2. Excavation of the pipe trench commenced in the northeast and continued counter clockwise around building terminating just short of the south-eastern corner of Lauriston castle (Fig. 1). Two connected trenches off of the north-eastern corner of Lauriston Castle and one trench located just beyond the main trench off of the southeast corner were also monitored. The location of the individual features is shown on Fig. 1.

#### **3.2 Features**

##### **3.2.1 North side of castle**

The deposits along this side of the castle were predominantly topsoil (**001**) over subsoil (**002**).

A possible stone surfaced path (**004**) (Fig. 2) aligned north – south was identified and this overlay a base of crushed sandstone (**003**). It was overlain by topsoil (**001**) and overlay the subsoil (**002**).

Running parallel to the path a rubble drain (**026**) was found cut in to the subsoil (**002**).

##### **3.2.2 West side of castle**

The deposits along this side of the castle were predominantly topsoil (**001**) over subsoil (**002**) and in places made ground (**005**). Where the pipe track cut through the drive way the driveway surface (**014**) was shown to overlie topsoil (**015**).

The cut for a stone-capped drain (**008**) (Fig. 3) running approximately east – west was located. It was cut through the made ground (**005**). The drain itself was constructed from sandstone side slabs (**007**) which supported sandstone cap stones (**006**).

A probable path surfaced with black-grey gravel (010) crossed the trench on an approximately northwest – southeast alignment. This overlay buried topsoil (011)

### 3.2.3 East side of castle

The deposits along this side of the castle were predominantly topsoil (001) over subsoil (005) and in places made ground (016/017 and 021).

The possible continuation of the stone-capped drain (008) that was exposed on western side of the castle was identified cutting across the trench on an approximately east – west alignment. This was cut through the made ground (021). The capstones (024) were large rough sandstone blocks and the sides appeared to be constructed from angular stones in a brown clay matrix (025).

The cut for another stone-capped drain (020) (Fig. 4) with a southwest – northeast alignment was identified running across the trench. This was cut through made ground (021). The capstones (013) were large rough sandstone blocks and the sides appeared to be constructed from angular stones in a brown clay matrix (019). It had been silted up with grey sandy silt (018).

A possible wall (022) (Fig. 5) 0.28m wide crossed the trench aligned approximately east –west. It was of a mortared sandstone build with the sandstone being roughly shaped suggesting that this may have represented the foundation course of a wall. A spread of crushed sandstone rubble (023) extended to the north of this. This could represent the remains of the wall following demolition or the remains of debris left from the shaping of the stones for the construction of the wall.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

A watching brief was carried out during the excavations for the installation of a water main surrounding Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh.

Features observed included:

- a pathway and stone-filled rubble drain to the north of the castle,
- a stone-capped drain and a path to the west of the castle and
- two stone-capped drains and a possible wall foundation to the east of the castle.

All features are considered to be post-medieval in date and related to the use of the area surrounding the castle as landscaped policies.

Undisturbed natural subsoil was not identified indicating that the surrounding area has probably undergone significant landscaping to create the current gardens.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and copies of reports will be lodged with the CECAS SMR.

A summary statement of the results of this evaluation will be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (Appendix 4) and an online OASIS entry submitted on completion of the project



## APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Shot No.	Summary or Description	Taken From
1	Working shot of trench	E
2	S Facing Section of Trench showing path (004) in section	S
3	S Facing Section of Trench showing path (004) in section	E
4-5	Path surface(004) in plan	S
6	Rubble filled drain (026) in plan	
7	Working Shots	E/W
8-9	Working Shots	W
10	North Facing Section	S
11	Working Shot of Trench	W
12	End of Day Progress Shot-13/2/14	E
13	End of Day Progress Shot-13/2/14	W
14	Trench Shot, showing netting (redundant security system)	N
15	End of Day Progress Shot-14/2/14	S
16	End of Day Progress Shot-14/2/14	N
17	End of Day Progress Shot-17/2/14	N
18	End of Day Progress Shot-18/2/14	N
19	General Shot of W facing section	W
20	Capping Stones (006) of drain (008)	N
21	E Facing section of trench, showing c drain (008)	E
22	General View of the location of drain (008)	N
23	Shot of side slabs (007) of drain (008)	E
24	E facing section of drain 008	E
25	Detail shot of side slabs (007) of drain (008)	E
26-27	End of Day Progress Shot-19/2/14	W-S
28	End of Day Progress Shot-20/2/14	W
29	S facing section of trench-20/2/14	S
30	Pre-ex shot of roundabout to rear of castle	NE
31	Post-ex shot of roundabout to rear of castle	SW
32	Post-ex shot of roundabout to rear of castle	SW
33-34	Stone capping (013) of covered drain (020)	NE
35	Same location following removal of drain	NE
36	Possible wall (022)	SE
37	Post-ex shot of Tr.1 (leading from rear garden towards greenhouse)	W
38	Post-ex shot of Tr.1 (leading from rear garden towards greenhouse)	E
39	Post-ex shot of Tr.2 (looking toward NE corner of house)	NE
40	Post-ex shot of Tr.3 (W house running parallel to prev. dug trench)	N
41	Post-ex shot of Tr.3 (showing line of prev. dug trench in grass to the left)	N

## APPENDIX 2: Context Register

No.	Fill of	Description
001		Topsoil dark-brown sandy silt
002		Subsoil re-deposited mid dark brown sandy clay
003		Preparation layer for path small fragmented sandstone fragment-loose configuration
004		Path surface - loose angular laminated stones embedded in a mid-brown sandy-clay matrix.
005		Subsoil/made ground (mid brown orange sandy clay)
006	008	Cap stones of drain - large rough cut sandstone, yellow-red, c.1.0-1.4m
007	008	Side stones of drain - small-medium rough cut angular sandstones
008		Cut for drain
009	008	Backfill of 008 mid grey-brown silty clay containing many small stones
010		Surface of Path

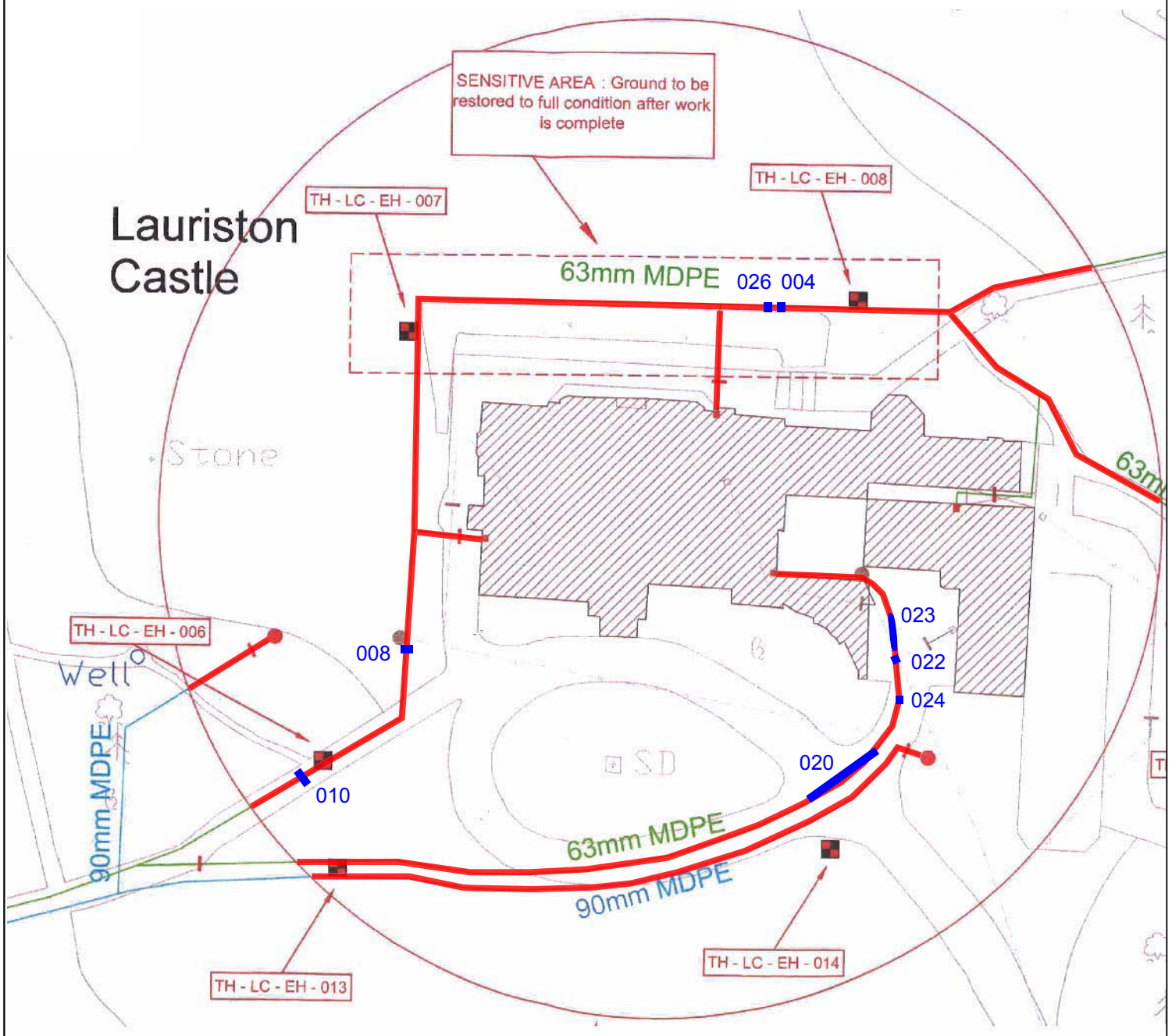
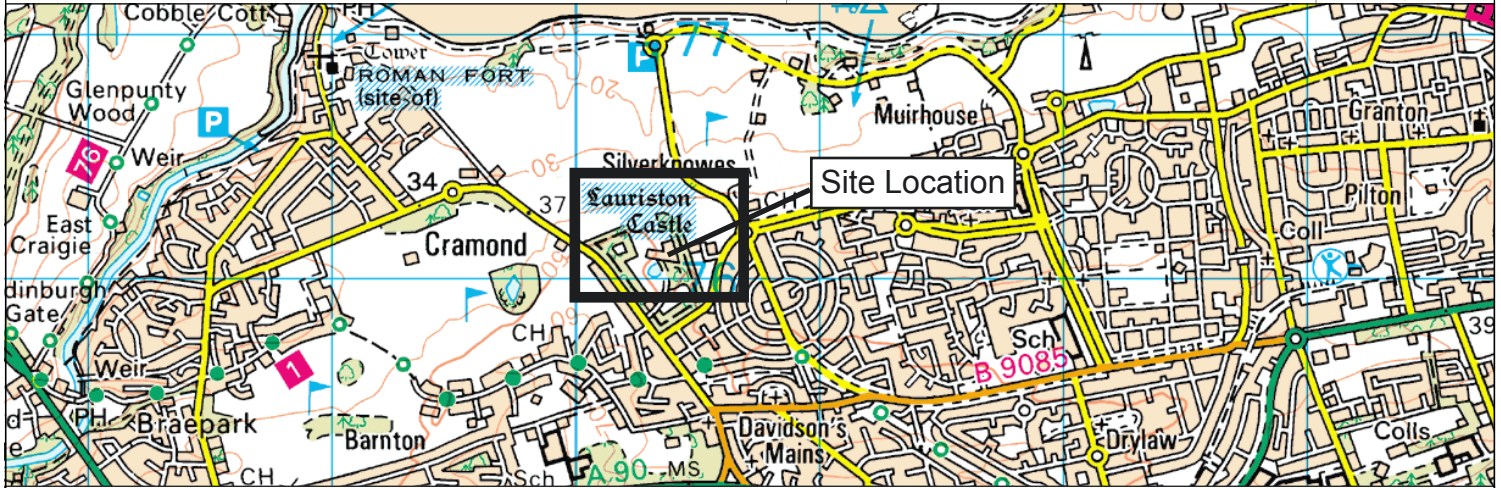
011		topsoil under (010) (mid orange-brown sandy clay with roots. 0.2-0.3m). Overlies mid orange-brown mottled with red clay sand.
012		Made ground underlying 010, 011(mid gray sandy-clay with occasional stones, 0.2-0.3) and rubble. Begins at 6m E of trench and continues for 12m W. Seems to overlie subsoil and made ground (005).
013	020	Capping stones of NE-SW running covered drain - large rough-cut sandstone, yellow-red, c. 1.0-1.4m
014		Modern driveway
015		Topsoil (brown sandy clay) buried beneath driveway
016		Grey silty-sand deposit – made ground
017		Grey silty-sand - same as 016
018	020	Grey sandy-silt- fill of covered drain
019	020	Brown-grey clay and medium sized round stones lining covered drain channel
020		Cut for covered drain
021		Made ground - orange-brown sandy clay with medium sized rounded stones
022		Possible mortared sandstone wall
023		Deposit of rubble
024		Possible culvert / box drain cover - large rough-cut sandstone blocks
025		Possible rubble siding of culvert small angular stones in a brown clay matrix
026		Cut for rubble filled drain
027	026	Rubble fill of drain

### APPENDIX 3: Field Drawing Register

No.	Sheet No.	Description	S/P	Scale
1	1	E facing section of path (004) and drain 026	S	1:20
2	1	Plan of Path (004)	P	1:20
3	1	Plan of drain (008) with capping stone (006) in situ	P	1:10
4	1	E facing section of drain (008)	S	1:10
5	1	Plan of drain (008) with capping stone removed to show side slabs (007)	P	1:10
6	2	Plan of covered drain (013)	P	1:20
7	2	SW facing section through covered drain (013) A-A1	S	1:20
8	2	NW facing section through covered drain (013) B-B1	S	1:20
9	2	Plan of N-S running pipe trench (B2-B3)	P	1:20
10	2	Plan of N-S running pipe trench (B-B2)	P	1:20
11	3	Plan of front of Lauriston Castle with section and plan locations for drawing number 7-10	P	1:250

#### APPENDIX 4: Discovery and Excavation In Scotland

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Water Pipe Installation at Lauriston Castle
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	LAUR
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh (Edinburgh City of)
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	G Savory
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	N/A
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	N/A
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 203 761
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	February 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	March 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during the excavations for the installation of a new water main surrounding Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh. A number of features were observed which were related to the drainage and use of the surrounding landscaped gardens. These included a two stone surfaced paths, a rubble filled drain, three stone slab covered drains and a possible wall foundation.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	RPS
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, EH21 7PQ.
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	gsavory@cfa-archaoleology.co.uk
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS, Reports lodged with SMR and NMRS.



Key:  
— Watching Brief Area  
— Features



Scale at A4: NTS

Fig. No: 1    Revision: A    Client: RPS

Title: Location Map & Feature Location

Project: Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief

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Fig. 2 - Possible path surface (004)



Fig. 3 - Drain (008) showing side slabs (007) following renewal of cap stones

Fig. No: <b>2-3</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief</b>		
Drawn by: <b>LW</b>	Checked: <b>LW</b>	Report No: <b>3143</b>	Client: <b>RPS</b>		

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Fig. 4 - Stone capping (013) of drain (020)



Fig. 5 - Possible wall (022)

Fig. No: <b>4-5</b>		Revision: <b>A</b>	Project: <b>Lauriston Castle, Edinburgh, Archaeological Watching Brief</b>
Drawn by: <b>LW</b>	Checked: <b>LW</b>	Report No: <b>3143</b>	Client: <b>RPS</b>



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