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Geophysical Survey

**Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand
Works,
Edinburgh Castle Esplanade.
SMC D: Earl Haig**

**Watching Brief
Data Structure Report No. 1829**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works carried out at Edinburgh Castle Esplanade in Year 1 (2009/2010) of works for a newly designed temporary grandstand on the Esplanade on behalf of Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd.
- 1.1.2 The works carried out comprised a watching brief during the removal of the statue of Earl Haig from the Esplanade (Fig. 1). This work was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January 2010.
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by CFA on behalf of Thomas and Adamson in support of an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC D) for the removal and relocation of the statue of Earl Haig from Edinburgh Castle Esplanade to Hospital Square within Edinburgh Castle. The WSI provided the methods statement for the archaeological watching brief and excavation work involved at Hospital Square, the new location.
- 1.1.4 The Earl Haig monument was to be moved in order to accommodate the new design of the temporary grandstand for the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Earl Haig's position on the Esplanade would block the pedestrian route underneath the new north stand. The only way in which to meet the key requirements of the new stand was to relocate the monument; it was, therefore, agreed with Historic Scotland and other interested parties that the monument should be repositioned in Hospital Square (see Burman with Ross 2009 for a full account of the process that led to this agreement), and SMC D was obtained to effect that solution.
- 1.1.5 The methods statement for the removal, conservation and reinstatement of Earl Haig was prepared by Nicholas Boyes Stone Conservation (NBSC).
- 1.1.6 This work is part of a larger scope of works to be undertaken over two years for works by Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd for a newly designed temporary grandstand on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle to replace the structure that is currently assembled and disassembled each year. A series of Scheduled Monument Consents (SMCs A-E) have been obtained for different packages of work; and these are reported on under separate cover as follows:
 - SMC A: Foundations – CFA Report no. 1732 (Suddaby 2010)
 - SMC B: Scottish Horse & North Esplanade Wall – CFA Report no. 1780 (Suddaby & Johnson 2010)
 - SMC E: Utilities outside of Esplanade – CFA Report no. 1830 (Suddaby & Johnson 2010)
- 1.1.7 SMC C has no archaeological element to it as it relates to the construction of the stands.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Edinburgh Castle and the Esplanade are protected as a Scheduled Monument (SM No. 90130) and lie within the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, which was inscribed in 1995. Edinburgh Castle and the Esplanade are, therefore, of international importance. The Castle and Esplanade is a Property in the Care and ownership of Historic Scotland.
- 1.2.2 There are seven monuments positioned on the northern edge of the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle (Burman with Ross 2009), while an eighth monument is sited in Princes Street Gardens to the north of the Esplanade (Ross 2008). Descriptions of the monuments are presented in a gazetteer in the Cultural Significance report (Burman with Ross 2009).
- 1.2.3 The Statue of Earl Haig takes the form of an equestrian bronze portrait of the celebrated First World War Field-Marshal, one-and-a-half times life size on a large granite base, designed as though to suggest that horse and rider are engaging with real rocky terrain. Earl Haig is depicted as if caught in motion, dressed in his Field-Marshal's uniform.
- 1.2.4 The monument was erected in 1923 but, unlike the other military monuments on the Esplanade, this statue was not conceived as a posthumous tribute. In fact the stated intent of the donor was to honour both Haig's leadership during the First World War and his work regarding the welfare of ex-servicemen by placing the statue in the Field-Marshal's native city. In accepting this gift, Edinburgh City Council acknowledged and reflected that sentiment. The work was gifted to the city by a wealthy Indian merchant, Sir Dhunjibhoy Bomanji. The sculptor was George Edward Wade (1853-1933).
- 1.2.5 The statue is category B Listed (HB number 27860), but forms part of the A listed group with the Esplanade and other monuments and falls within the parameters of Edinburgh Castle and Esplanade Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 90130).
- 1.2.6 A detailed assessment has been made of the condition of Earl Haig and presented within a Conservation Assessment Report (NBSC 2009).

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:
 - To monitor through a watching brief the dismantling and removal of the statue's base from the surface of the Castle Esplanade; and to excavate any archaeological features or deposits present. Research has shown that the monument has no known foundation.
 - To fully excavate, record and interpret any archaeological deposits, features and structures contained within the trench excavated for the concrete foundation raft required for the relocation of Earl Haig to Hospital Square, and retrieve artefacts, ecofacts and other remains.

- To ensure that the archaeological works took account of the known archaeological potential of the Esplanade and Hospital Square.
 - To produce a report on the findings of the fieldwork, setting out the potential for any further work and dissemination of the results, as appropriate.
- 1.3.2 The works reported on here comprise a watching brief during the dismantling and removal of Earl Haig from the Esplanade. During Year 2 (2010/2011) the trench will be excavated in the new location in Hospital Square and this report will be updated to include the results of that work.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, and Standards and Guidelines for Watching Briefs as appropriate. All work was carried out under the terms of SMC D.

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 A watching brief was maintained during the dismantling and removal of the Earl Haig statue's base from the Esplanade surface.
- 2.2.2 A Method Statement for the removal of the statue was prepared by NBSC and all work was carried out in accordance with that document.
- 2.2.3 The statue has been removed to NBSC's premises for conservation prior to its installation in Hospital Square.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

- 3.1 The Earl Haig Statue was dismantled under archaeological supervision by employees of Nicholas Boyes Stone Conservation and Bernard Hunter Crane Hire.
- 3.2 The external sandstone cladding was removed by a combination of hand and electrically powered tools with the stones being numbered to allow accurate reassembly. The statue and its granite plinth were removed by crane, exposing the underlying concrete plinth and rubble core (Fig. 2). The rubble core and concrete plinth were then dismantled using electrical and hydraulic machinery.
- 3.3 The statue's base sat directly on the surface of the Esplanade, to a depth of no more than 0.15m. Beneath the base was a layer of hardcore and rubble, with the tarmac surface butting against the base.

3.4 The monument's base was placed over a storm runoff and drain set into the Esplanade's tarmac surface. A cobble-lined drainage channel was recorded sealed beneath the tarmac running parallel to the north Esplanade wall. No other archaeological features or deposits were found.

3.5 A rumour concerning the presence of a 'time capsule' buried beneath the statue was not corroborated; no such item was recovered.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The work confirmed that the Earl Haig statue had no formal foundation and had had very little impact on the Esplanade surface. No archaeological features or deposits were disturbed during the statue base's removal.

Further Work

4.2 The new location of the statue in Hospital Square requires a reinforced concrete raft foundation to be constructed to provide a stable, level platform upon which to site the monument. Excavation to the required formation depth will be carried out by CFA with the assistance of plant supplied by SRM as required to remove surface make-up materials and other modern overburden. Deposits or features of potential archaeological significance will be excavated by hand by the archaeologists.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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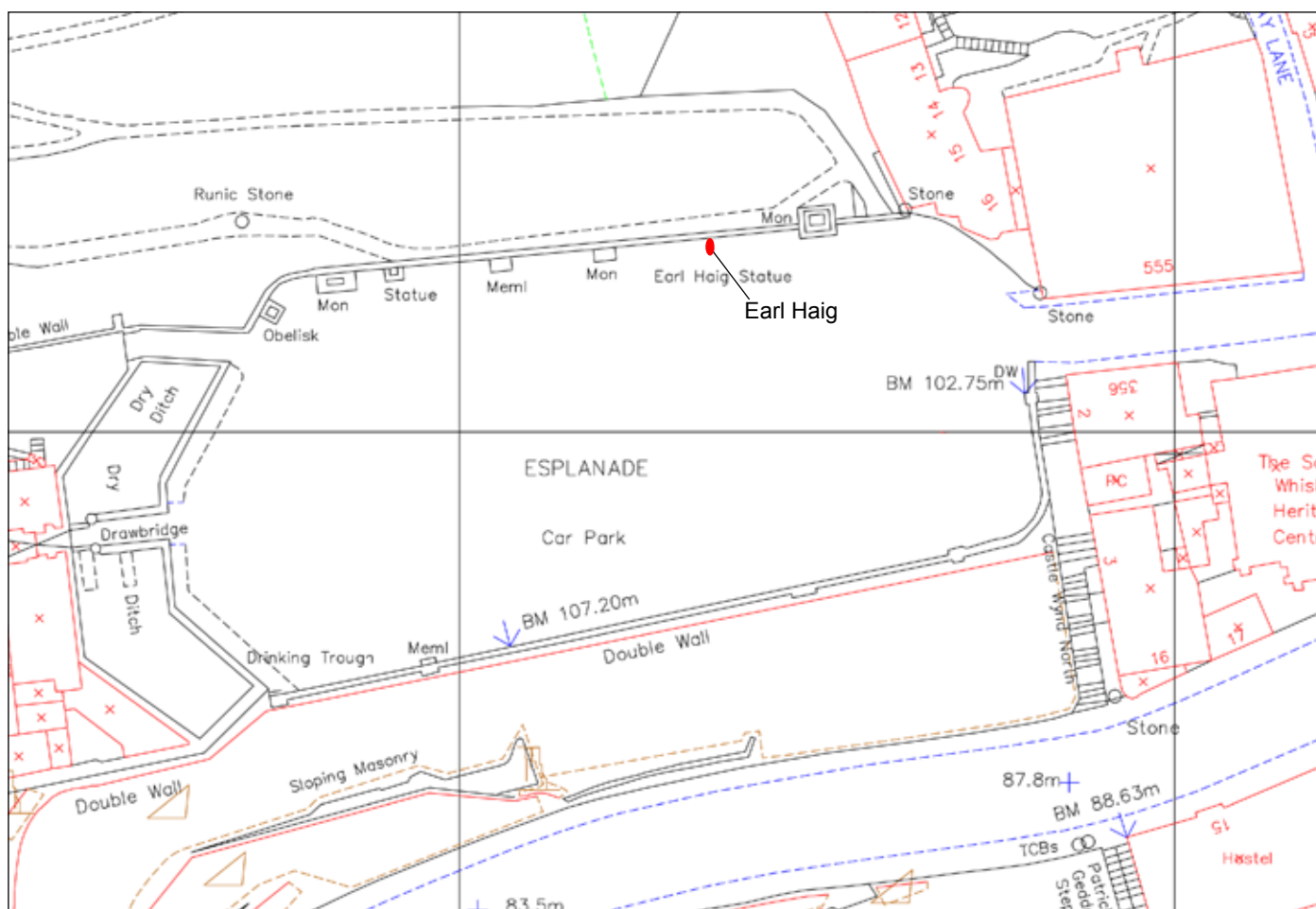
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APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

Digital Shot	Description	From	Conditions
226-229	Earl Haig statue removed showing concrete plinth below	S	Overcast
245A-E	Earl Haig statue being slung onto low-loader	Varied	Night
252-253	Earl Haig statue plinth demolition working shots	S	Overcast
424	Cobbled drain just E of Earl Haig monument	W	Sun to shade
998-1051	General & detailed views of the deconstruction and removal of the Earl Haig Statue	Varied	Varied



Key:



Fig. No:

1

Revision:

A

Client:

Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd

Title:

Location Map

Project:

Edinburgh Castle Esplanade

Scale:

1:1,000



Drawn by:
SW

Page No:

Report No:

1829



Key:

Fig. No:	2	Revision:		Client:	Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd
Title:	The statue and granite slab being lifted from the rubble core of the plinth				
Project:	Edinburgh Castle Esplanade				

Scale:



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