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**Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand
Works,
Edinburgh Castle: Hospital Square.
SMC D: Earl Haig Statue Relocation**

**Watching Brief & Excavation
Data Structure Report No. 1873**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in January and February 2011 in Hospital Square (also known as Museum Square) (Figs 1), within Edinburgh Castle during Year 2 (2010/2011) of fieldwork associated with newly designed grandstands for the Military Tattoo on the Esplanade. The work was undertaken on behalf of Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd.

Hospital Square was surfaced (Fig. 2) with setts (cobble). A watching brief was carried out during the removal of these setts and sufficient of the underlying deposits in advance of the laying of a concrete raft upon which the statue of Earl Haig was to be re-erected. Monitoring of the statue's removal from the Esplanade during Year 1 (2009-2010) was the subject of a previous report (Suddaby & Johnson 2010). The relocated statue was unveiled by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on 16 March 2011 (Fig. 7).

1.2 Project Background

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 16 October 2009 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.

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.

This work is part of a larger project of works to be undertaken over two years for Edinburgh Military Tattoo Ltd. A newly designed temporary grandstand on the Esplanade of Edinburgh Castle will 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 et al 2010)

SMC C has no archaeological element to it as it relates to the construction of the stands.

A separate methods statement for the removal, conservation and reinstatement of Earl Haig was prepared by Nicholas Boyes Stone Conservation (NBSC, 2009).

1.3 Historical & Archaeological Background

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. Descriptions of the monuments are presented in a gazetteer in the Cultural Significance Report (Burman with Ross 2009).

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.

The monument was erected on the Esplanade 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).

The statue is Category B Listed (HB number 27860) and falls within the parameters of Edinburgh Castle and Esplanade Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 90130).

Hospital Square is today the site of the National War Museum, housed in a Category B Listed (A Listed as a group) former hospital and ordnance store, around a cobbled courtyard area. Within the Scottish War Museum, Earl Haig receives interpretation including one of his day uniforms and a bronze version of his death mask on prominent public display. The Museum was established in 1930.

Hospital Square was initially the site of a magazine built around 1677, which was pulled down and replaced in 1748-54 by two ordnance stores and a powder magazine. A protective blast wall ran north to south to the east of this magazine, connecting both the stores. Prior to conversion into the museum, the site was occupied by a military hospital converted from the ordnance stores in 1897. At that time the magazine was demolished and levelled over to provide the present-day square.

Watching briefs were undertaken in Hospital Square in 1998 and 1999 (Murray 1998, 1999). Remains related to the 18th century powder magazine were revealed during this work.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of this phase of archaeological works were:

- To 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 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.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

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 & Excavation

A watching brief was carried out during the removal by machine of a raised area of setts in the centre of Hospital Square (Figs 1 and 2) known as the 'Flower Bed' and the underlying deposits recorded. The stone setts were dislodged using a machine-mounted hydraulic hammer and removed by machine.

Once an assessment of these underlying deposits was completed, an updated design for the foundation of the statue was produced by ARUP and an amendment to the SMC was agreed with Historic Scotland. This involved the excavation of an extension (fig. 4) to the oval trench to a maximum depth of 0.45m. No additional features were revealed in the extension area.

A disused and covered over brick fire hydrant within the trench was removed and replaced with a new steel hydrant which can be accessed when required. An amendment to the SMC was agreed with Historic Scotland.

All of the work was overseen by Historic Scotland.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Stratigraphic and structural evidence

In the text below, context numbers are in bold and parentheses. These are further described in Appendix 1.

The earliest deposit revealed was a dark brown silty sand soil with frequent stones, mortar chunks and bones (**660**). Above this, thin deposits of clean, iron-mottled yellow sand (**668**, **669** and **691**) were revealed. These deposits were cut (**692**) by the foundation trench for the eastern wall (**666**) of the 1748 powder magazine. The wall was exposed to a length of 3.75m and a depth of 0.1m (Figs. 3 and 4), but its full width was not exposed. The facing stones were creamy-green sandstone ashlar blocks of a type not recorded elsewhere during the Esplanade Project.

Wall **665** (Figs. 4 and 5) is the 'enclosure' or 'blast' wall to the east of the magazine. It was 9.6m long and 0.6m wide at the surface, although during work to replace the fire hydrant alongside the wall in the south of the trench, a notable batter (Fig. 5) was observed; this was less apparent in the sections recorded during the reduction in levels to the north. The wall was constructed of red and creamy-red sandstone rubble and much of the external faces were covered with a lime mortar.

Wall **667** (Figs. 4 and 6) may be part of a square feature shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey Town Plan and was exposed in the south-east edge of the trench. It was 0.4m wide and 0.2m deep. Formed from yellowish sandstone rubble, it was founded on a loose rubble base (**672**).

Two of the walls (**665** and **667**) were sealed by dark brown silty soil (**694** and **695**), similar to the soil (**671**) within a funnel shaped cut (**670**). It seems most probable that this soil (**671**, **694** and **695**) is a redeposition of the earliest deposit (**660**). A disused fire hydrant (**662**) and associated pipe-work, and a network of glazed ceramic drainage pipes (**657** and **659**) were revealed above and cutting through these deposits. Traces of a dark soil (**661**) related to the flower beds was present below the raised area of setts in the centre of Hospital Square.

Following the completion of archaeological work, a gravel base was laid and compacted. The concrete raft for the monument was put in place and the statue base was rebuilt in as near an identical form to the original as possible. It was formally unveiled by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal on 16 March 2011 (Fig. 7).

3.2 *The finds*, by Sue Anderson

Finds were collected from **660** (possibly mixed with **694**) and **695**. A full list is included in Appendix 4. The finds comprised 133 fragments of animal bone (3183g) and 15 shells (171g).

All shells were oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) and were probably the remains of food waste, although oyster shells were also used as packing in lime mortar in the medieval period.

The animal bone assemblage was dominated by cattle bones, but smaller domestic mammals including sheep and possibly pig were also present and there were also a few bird bones. The bones showed evidence of butchery by chopping rather than sawing, which suggests that they are probably medieval in date. Fragments of the main meat-producing areas of the skeleton were present, such as the shoulders and upper limbs, as well as several teeth and lower limb/foot bones, some of which had

been split for marrow extraction. Several bones showed signs of abrasion and gnawing by animals (rats and dogs), suggesting that they may have lain above ground before being deposited.

4. CONCLUSIONS & FURTHER WORK

The excavations revealed the eastern wall (666) of the 1748 powder magazine; the 'enclosure' or 'blast' wall (665) to the east of the magazine; and a wall (667) that is likely to be part of a square feature shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey Town Plan.

The deposits revealed are similar to those recorded by Murray (1999, 38), which he interpreted as 'likely to represent the infilling of a demolished structure to provide a level surface for the courtyard, presumably in 1897' (ibid). The 2011 excavation has demonstrated that the apparently homogenous deposit must have been deposited as more than one episode, as demonstrated by the fact that one layer of dark brown silty soil (660) was cut by the foundation trench for the powder magazine (666), whilst similar deposits (671, 694 and 695) overlay the blast wall (665) and 19th century wall (667). Quantities of bone, which were recovered from all three contexts, are considered to be of medieval date, indicating that 660 can perhaps be viewed as an in situ layer, with 671, 694 and 695 being redeposited material laid during the 1897 ground levelling operation.

The Earl Haig Statue was successfully replaced in the centre of Hospital Square.

The artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the present work require analysis. Radiocarbon dating may be appropriate. As agreed with Historic Scotland, the results of the excavation and post-excavation work will be incorporated into a publication report on excavations in Hospital Square to be produced by Kirkdale Archaeology.

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APPENDIX 1: Context Register

Context	Fill of	Description	Section (Plan)
656		Cut for the main N-S part of the drain system	(226)
657	656	Glazed ceramic pipe & soil	(226, 241)
658		Cut for the branch pipes. Cut by 664	(226)
659	658	Unglazed field drain type pipes	(226, 241)
660		Mixed deposit of dark brown silty sand soil with frequent stones, mortar chunks & bones	228-9, 244-5, (226, 241)
661		Garden soils from flower beds. Dark brown silty sand	(226)
662	664	Disused brick hydrant structure	(226)
663	664	Loose soil, stones & broken drain tiles within 664 around 662	(226)
664		Cut for disused fire hydrant	(226)
665		Blast Wall structure. Sandstone rubble with lime mortar. Notable batter	228, 242-5, (226, 241)
666	692	Powder Magazine structure. Greenish sandstone	227 (226, 241)
667		Possible structure founded on rubble 672 on W side of the trench. May be part of the square feature shown on the 1854 map	229 (226, 241)
668		Iron stained creamy sand	(226)
669		Iron stained creamy sand (shallow)	(226)
670		Possible cut feature. Runs between walls 665 & 666 and if real cuts 660	(226)
671	670	Dark yellow brown gritty silt with mortar, stone chips & clay lumps	(226)
672		Rubble and mortar layer under wall 667. Possibly under 660 also	229 (226)
691		Iron stained creamy sand	(226)
692		Cut for the Powder Magazine. In plan appears to cut 660 & sand deposits 668-9, 691	(226)
693	692	Brown silty soil with stone chips and lumps of yellow smooth clay	(226)
694	670	Dark yellow brown gritty silt with mortar, stone chips & clay lumps separated from 671 by drain 658	(226)
695	670	Dark yellow brown gritty silt with mortar, stone chips & clay lumps separated from 694 by wall 665	(226)

APPENDIX 2: Photographic Register

SLR	Digital	Description	From	Conditions
Film 34				
	1814-6	Pre-excavation views of the raised area of setts	S	Overcast
	1850-4	General views of drains 656, 658 during excavation	Various	Dull
1-4	1855-6	E facing section prior to the exposure of wall 666	E	Dull
5-6	1859-62	General views of the trench	NNW	Overcast
7-8	1863-4	General views of the trench	S	Overcast
9-10	1865	Close up view of the trench	N	Overcast
11-14	1866-9	General views of the trench	E	Overcast
15-16	1870-1	Close up view of wall 666 at the W side of the trench	SE	Overcast
17-20	1872-3	Close up view of wall 666 at the W side of the trench	E	Overcast
21-22	1874-6	General views of the trench and wall 666	E	Overcast
23-24	1877-9	Trench against brick hydrant 664 exposing part of the E face of Blast Wall 665	E	Overcast
25-26	1880-2	Plan view of the exposed Blast Wall face showing the batter	N	Overcast
27-28	1883-4	E facing section and wall 666	E	Overcast
29-30	1885-6	S facing section and wall 665	S	Overcast
31-32	1887-8	NW facing section and wall 667	NW	Overcast
Film 35				
7-8	1925-6	Re photo of the W side of the trench with the sand patches 668-9, 691 clearer (24/1/2011)	SE	Overcast
9-10	1927-8	Re photo of the W side of the trench with the sand patches 668-9, 691 clearer (24/1/2011)	S	Overcast

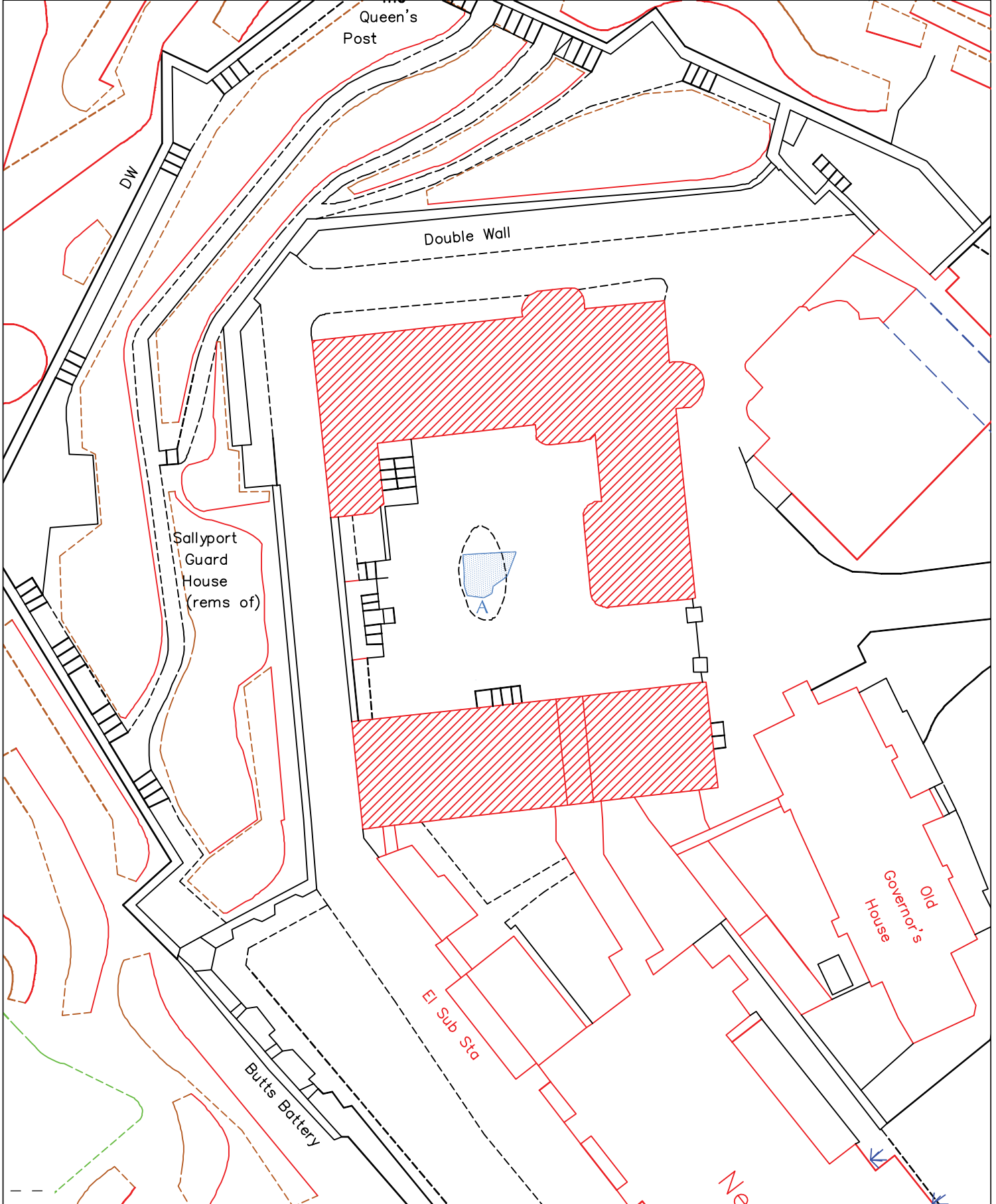
SLR	Digital	Description	From	Conditions
11-12	1929-30	Re photo of the W side of the trench with the sand patches 668-9, 691 clearer (24/1/2011)	NE	Overcast
	1931	Re photo of the W side of the trench with the sand patches 668-9, 691 clearer (24/1/2011), close up showing where these deposits appear to be cut by cut 692 for wall 666	N	Overcast
15-16	1950-1	New hydrant trench excavated and the batter of Blast Wall 665 exposed	N	Overcast
17-18	1952-3	New hydrant trench excavated and the batter of Blast Wall 665 exposed	S	Overcast
	1954	New hydrant trench excavated and the batter of Blast Wall 665 exposed	E	Overcast
19-20	1955-7	New hydrant trench excavated and the batter of Blast Wall 665 exposed	NE	Overcast
	1958-9	New hydrant and valve in place	N & S	Overcast
	1997	W elevation of Blast Wall 665 uncovered by hand digging	W	Overcast
	1998	Detail of W elevation of wall uncovered by hand digging	W	Overcast
	1999-2000	E elevation of wall uncovered by hand digging	E	Overcast
	2001	Detail of E elevation of wall uncovered by hand digging	E	Overcast
	2002-3	General shot of area showing the hand dug area in the W side with a dump of Type 1 in the E side	S	Overcast
	2004	Wall during removal of top 200mm by machine from the S	S	Overcast
	2005	Wall during removal of top 200mm by machine from the NW	NW	Overcast
	2006	Wall after removal of top 200mm by machine, from the N	N	Overcast
	2007	Wall after removal of top 200mm by machine, from the E	E	Overcast
	2008	Detail of wall after removal of top 200mm by machine, from the E	E	Overcast
	2009	S facing truncated elevation of wall	S	Overcast
	2010	N facing truncated elevation of wall	N	Overcast
	2011	Wall in the process of being covered by Type 1	NNW	Overcast
	2256-2269	General views of the formal unveiling by HRH Princess Anne of the statue on the 16 March 2011	Various	Bright / Shade

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet	Scale	Description
226	115	1:25	Plan of the trench including the drains and the underlying blast wall 665, powder magazine wall 666 and wall 667. Also shows the existing hydrant 664
227	115	1:10	E facing trench section showing wall 666
228	115	1:10	S facing trench section showing wall 665
229	115	1:10	WNW facing trench section showing wall 667 and deposit 672 below it
234	116	1:10	Profile through new hydrant trench showing the batter of wall 665
241	119	1:40	Simplified plan of the trench in Hospital Square showing the statue location and the extension E of the original trench
242	119	1:20	W facing elevation of Blast Wall 665 prior deconstruction
243	119	1:20	E facing elevation of Blast Wall 665 prior to deconstruction
244	119	1:10	S facing section through Blast Wall 665 after deconstruction
245	119	1:10	N facing section through Blast Wall 665 after deconstruction

APPENDIX 4: Finds Quantification

Context	Find type	No.	Wt (g)	Notes
695	Bone	61	1420	mostly cattle, some pig/sheep
	Shell	9	221	oyster
660	Bone	72	1763	cattle, sheep, pig, bird
	Shell	6	171	oyster



Key:




Fig. No: 1 Revision: A Client: Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Title:
Plan of Hospital Square showing the location of the Earl Haig statue

Project:
Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works



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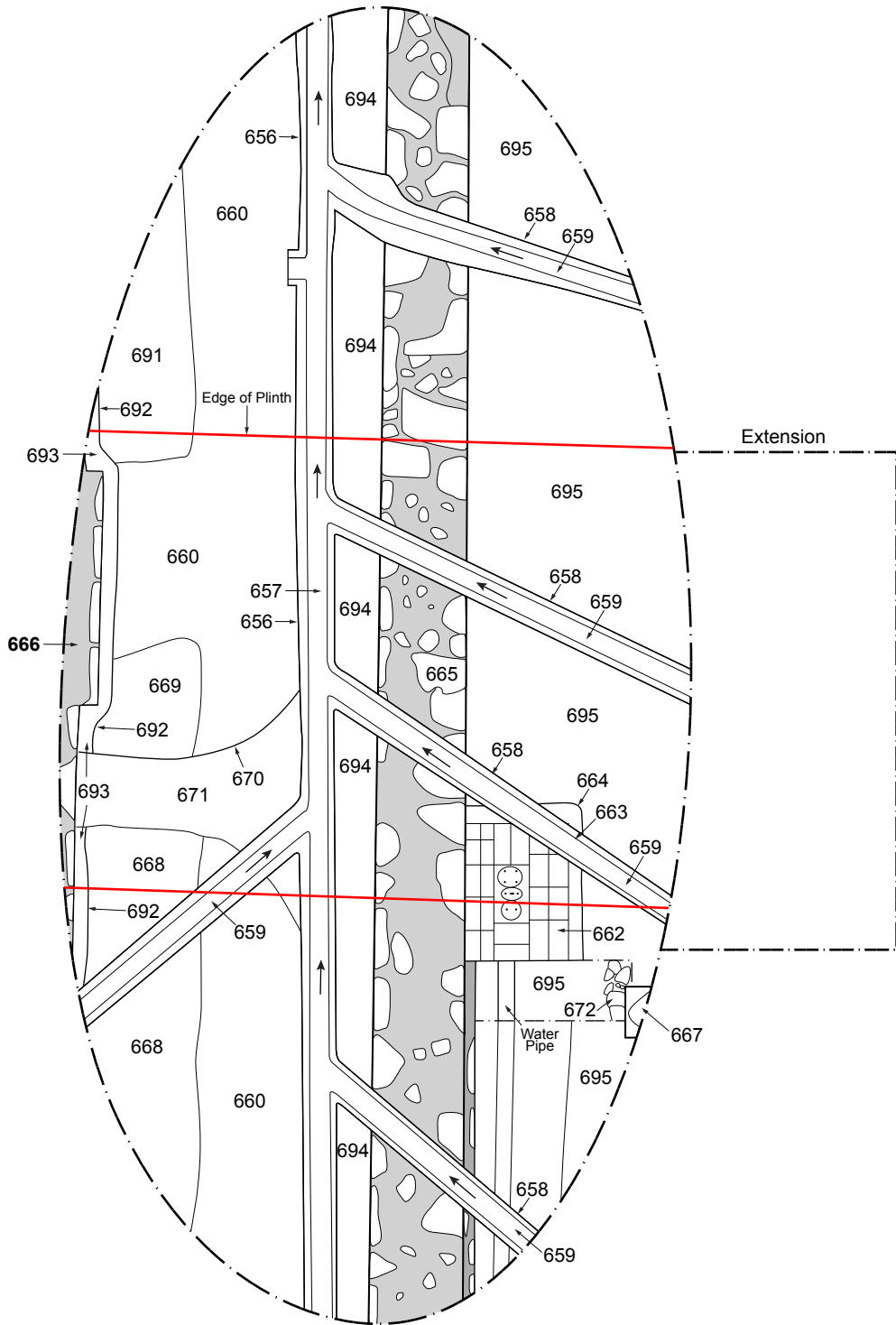


Fig. 2 - View of the 'flower bed' from the north-west once the setts and underlying grout were removed. Most of the overlying drains have also been removed



Fig. 3 - The Magazine Wall 666 from the south-east

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Key:
— Edge of Plinth



Fig. No: **4** Revision: **A** Client: **Edinburgh Military Tattoo**

Title:
Plan of the trench in Hospital Square

Project:
Edinburgh Military Tattoo Grandstand Works

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Fig. 5 - The location of the fire hydrant (662) adjacent to the Blast Wall 665. The vertical ranging rod shows the batter of the wall



Fig. 6 - Wall 667 from the west



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Fig. 7 - The unveiling ceremony in progress

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