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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AT DUDDINGSTON MANSE GARDENS

John McCarthy
BA(Hons) MPhil AIA

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

<i>Client</i>	CRICHTON LANG, WILLIS & GALLOWAY (CLWG) ARCHITECTS
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	NT 2835 7262
<i>Address</i>	DUDDINGSTON MANSE OLD CHURCH LANE DUDDINGSTON
<i>Parish</i>	DUDDINGSTON
<i>Council</i>	CITY OF EDINBURGH
<i>Planning Ref No</i>	09/02605/FUL
<i>Oasis No</i>	HEADLAND1-85018
<i>NMRS No</i>	NT27SE 3716 (MANSE AND WALLS) NT27SE 3714 (WATCH HOUSE)
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	HB29468 (MANSE AND WALLS) HB26924 (WATCH HOUSE)
<i>Listing Category</i>	B
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<i>Fieldwork</i>	AUGUST 2010
<i>Report</i>	SEPTEMBER 2010

Signed off by:

Dr Sorina Spanou MA(Hons) PhD, Project Manager

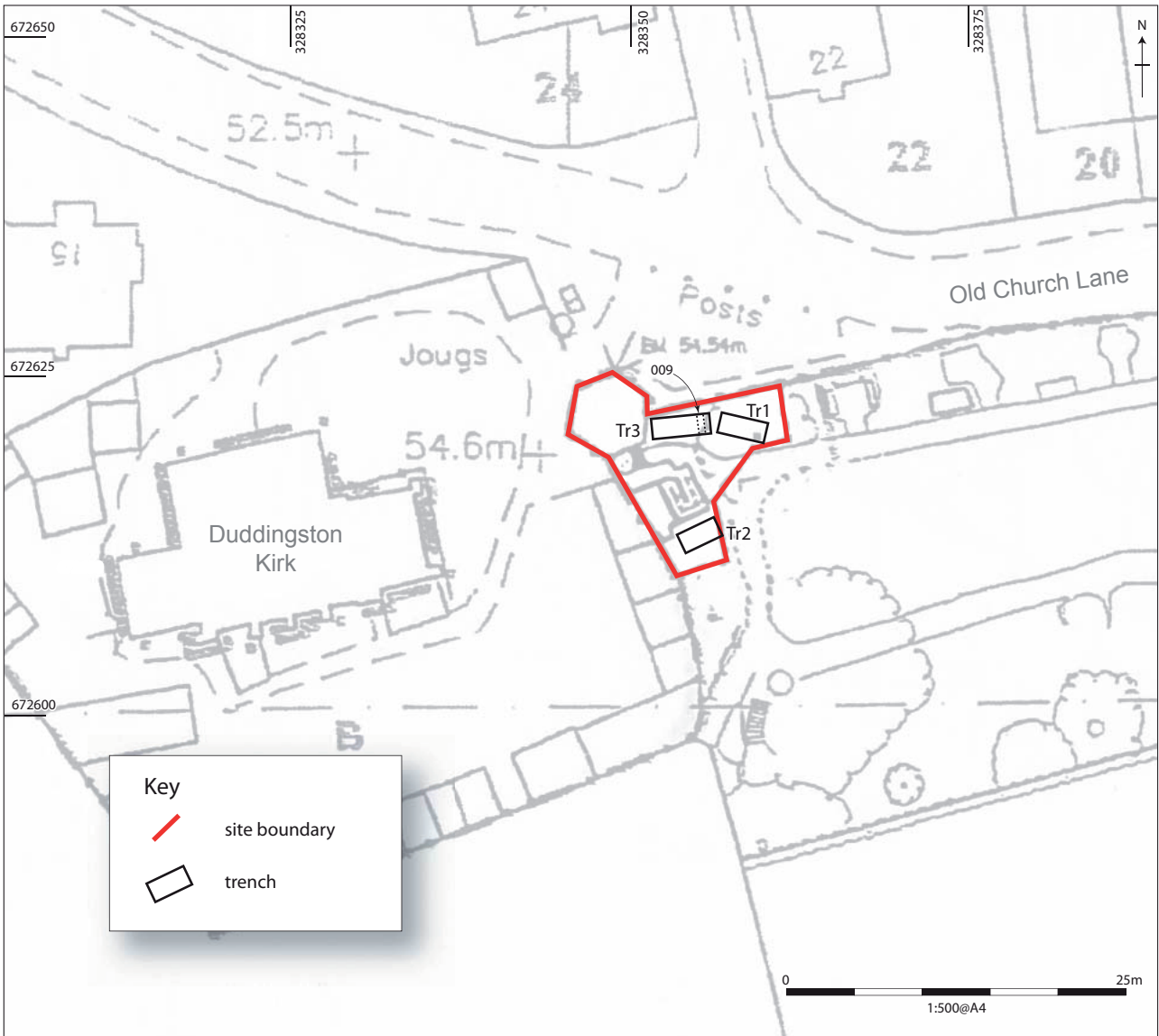
Date:.....

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Illus 1
 Location of evaluation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AT DUDDINGSTON MANSE GARDENS

by John McCarthy

Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted an evaluation and a level 1 programme of historic building recording at Duddingstone Manse, Duddingston. The work was commissioned by Crichton Lang, Willis and Galloway Architects on behalf of Duddingston Kirk and was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition imposed by the City of Edinburgh Council prior to a proposed redevelopment of the site. The evaluation comprised trial trenching (two trenches) to the rear of the upstanding frontage. Subsequently the City of Edinburgh Archaeological Service requested monitoring of a small additional area in order to clarify the results of the evaluation. This was carried out and is discussed below as trench three. The historic building assessment focused on a stretch of wall bordering the proposed development which contained traces of a pre-19th century building frontage.

All three trenches were excavated in the north–west corner of the manse garden, within the ground plan of the proposed development. In the first two trenches undisturbed glacial till was uncovered within 0.3m from the present ground surface and all layers of archaeological interest had been removed when the manse was relocated. The final trench which was undertaken during the monitoring phase revealed traces of wall foundations. No pottery was recovered from the overlying topsoil suggesting that the soil here may have been imported after the deposits associated with the manse were removed. The recording of the wall to the north showed that the frontage of pre-19th century buildings were preserved to a height of up to 2.5m and that the wall had been raised by approximately 1m in more recent times.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation, monitoring and historic building recording of an area within the gardens of Duddingston Manse. It has been prepared on behalf of Crichton Lang, Willis and Galloway Architects, who are proposing to demolish an existing toilet and porch in the north–west corner of the gardens of the manse and replace them with a single storey toilet and meeting room. This programme of works has been carried out in response to a planning condition (09/02605/FUL) set out by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeological Service, archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority.

2. SITE DESCRIPTION

Duddingston is a small medieval settlement on the north site of Duddingston Loch. Although evidence of pre-medieval activity around Duddingston Loch has emerged through stray finds, hoards and identification of earthworks, the present settlement is the result of a gift of the lands of Wester Duddingston by King David I to the Abbot of Kelso in the early 12th century. The Abbot built the church on a corner of ground above the loch and the village grew around it to the north and west. The church retains many original features and is now A-listed (HB26924).

To the east of the churchyard lies a long rectangular garden with a manse building at its eastern edge. The manse and the boundary wall around it are B-listed (HB29468). The manse sits in the eastern end of a long east–west oriented garden backing onto Duddingston Loch to the south. The main entrance to the garden is through a gated entrance on Old Church Lane to the north with a second pedestrian entrance in the western wall of the garden leading into the kirkyard. A wall between 2.5 and 3.5m tall runs along the northern edge of the garden with an entrance onto Old Church Lane.

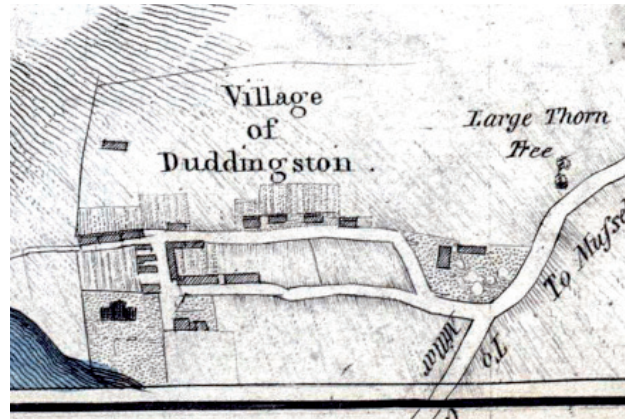
3. BACKGROUND

The present manse was built in 1805 and is a two-storey rubble built structure with an extension to the east. Maps prior to 1805, including Roy (1747–55), show that there was formerly a building within the western end of the gardens lying to the immediate east of the Kirk. The quality and scale of the available maps do not reveal any further detail about the possible character of the site. However, the location of this building on Roy's map appears to align well with the frontage preserved in the garden wall. It is probable that this was the old manse which was demolished prior to the construction of the present building in 1805. Little is known of this building but a contemporary mention survives in the eighteenth century 'Statistical Account



Illus 2

Duddingston as it appears on William's Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55. The church is clearly visible at the S - W edge of the settlement with another building to its immediate east



Illus 3

An extract from Scott's map of 1805. In this figure the buildings appear to stand back from the road but this cannot have been the case and it may be that the road has shifted somewhat to the north

of Scotland' which describes the manse as 'delightfully situated and tolerably commodious' (Sinclair 1791-99, 380).

There are a number of other historical structures close to or abutting this wall. At the entrance to Duddingston Kirk there is an octagonal crenellated watch tower dating to 1824 and which abuts the western end of the older manse boundary wall. It is said that this structure was built to prevent body-snatching which was prevalent at the time and is known as the 'Session House' (Cant 1986, 111). At the opposite side of the kirkyard entrance (*i.e.* the western side) there is a 'loupin-on-stane' - a stone platform (B-listed) with four steps, used to aid in the mounting of horses after services in the kirk, and a pillory (or jugs) a device for restraining miscreants. The description of both of these given by the RCAHMS dates them to the 17th century and this suggests that they may be contemporary with the buildings whose frontage is preserved in the northern garden wall of the manse.

4. OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 Objectives

The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to establish the archaeological potential of the development area by means of intrusive trial trenching and sample excavation, and the potential for survival of medieval remains in particular. The objective of the subsequent monitoring phase was to establish with certainty whether any traces of the pre-19th century walls survived in the area directly adjacent

to the surviving frontage. The objective of the historic building assessment was to evaluate the significance of the standing structures affected by the redevelopment proposal and to suggest archaeological mitigation. The information will be used to allow informed determination of the associated planning application.

4.2 Method

Research

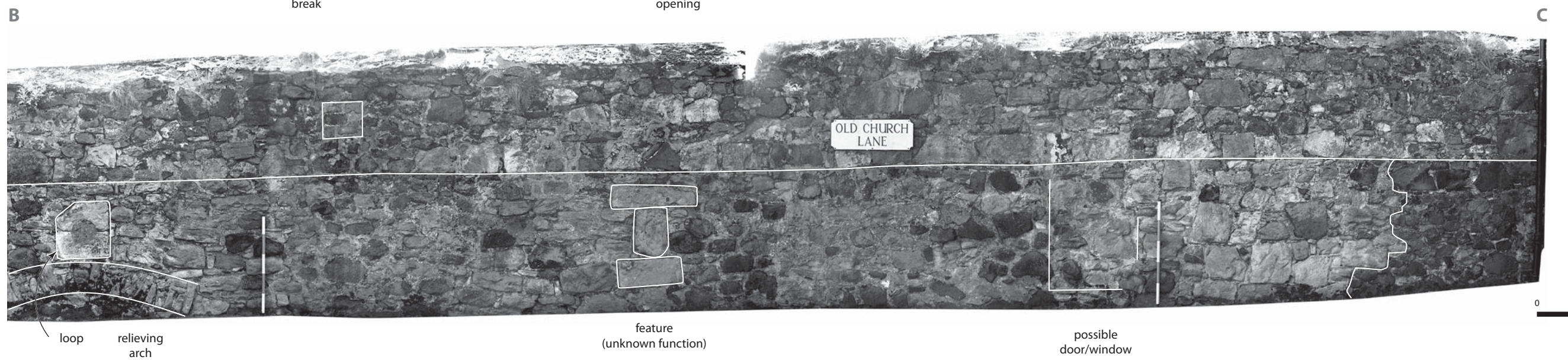
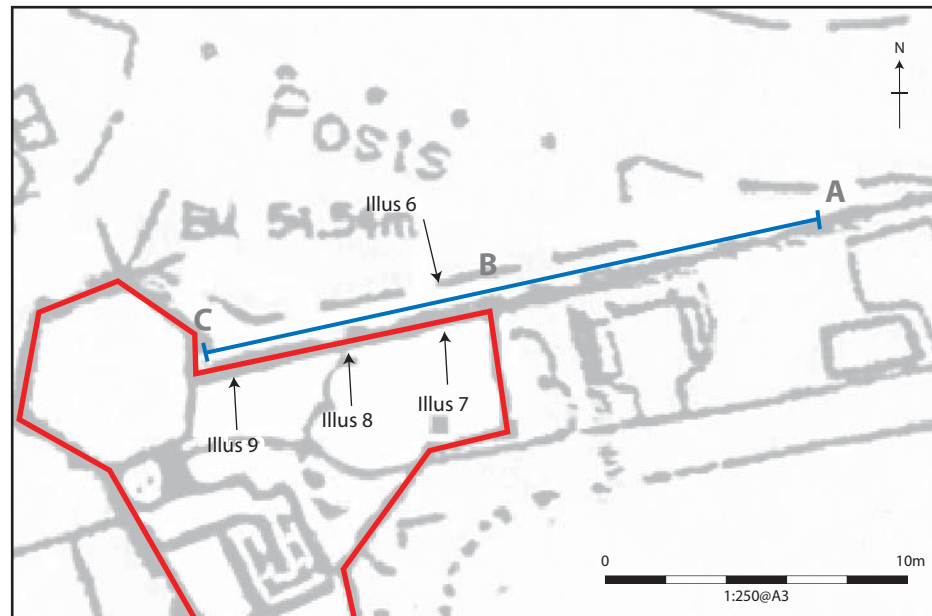
The following data sources have been used in the preparation of this report:

- databases of designated cultural heritage features maintained by Historic Scotland



Illus 4

An east-facing shot of the fragmentary wall foundation [009]



Illus 5
 A photomontage (unrectified) of the north face of the north garden wall of Duddingston Manse. This illustration shows a 20m stretch of the westernmost part of the wall up to the gatehouse



Illus 6

A possible gun loop above a supporting arch in the north face of the north garden wall of Duddingston Manse



Illus 7

The same feature as it appears in the south face of the north garden wall

- records held by the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)
- records held by the local Historic Environment Record
- maps held by National Library of Scotland
- other readily available published sources.

Trial Trenching

A total of three trenches were excavated, two during the evaluation phase and a third during the monitoring phase.

A tracked mechanical mini-excavator equipped with a flat bladed bucket was used under archaeological supervision to excavate the trenches. Where necessary a toothed bucket was used to excavate a sondage through suspected subsoil deposits. Tarmac and modern overburden was removed by machine and excavation terminated either at the uppermost significant archaeological horizon or when the clean surface of geological sediments had been exposed. The positioning of the trenches provided coverage across the areas of the site which would be impacted by the development.

Identified archaeological features were subject to sample hand excavation. This was carried out to a sufficient degree to meet the objectives of the evaluation and monitored strip.

4.3 Recording

All recording followed standard archaeological guidelines as set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All contexts, small finds and environmental samples were given unique numbers and all recording was undertaken on pro forma record cards that conform to accepted

archaeological norms. All stratigraphic relationships were recorded.

Colour transparencies and digital photographs were taken to record archaeological contexts and to illustrate the progress of the trial trenching. A graduated metric scale was clearly visible in record photographs of contexts. All photographs were recorded by individual print number and included information on the context and direction taken.

An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded using tapes offset to existing structure and 1:20 plans of individual features. Sections/elevations were drawn as required.

4.4 Historic Building Assessment

The assessment utilised the general standards set out by English Heritage (2006), the RCAHMS (2004) and the IfA (2008) and involved a combination of written description, sketch drawing and photography.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Trial Trenching

Trench 1 was 3.5m long and aligned roughly east-west. Trench 2 was 3m long aligned east-west (Illus 1). Both trenches contained a thin upper layer of loose, root-disturbed topsoil overlying an interface layer of greyish brown clayey silt which in turn overlay compact brownish orange silty clay with occasional fragments of cracked sandstone. The latter was interpreted as glacial till and

geological in origin. No features of archaeological interest were noted and no dateable artefacts were recovered.

Trench 3 was within an area of large bushes. Prior to clearing these bushes an active nesting site was discovered and excavation was postponed for several weeks to allow the birds to leave the nest. Upon resumption of excavation the foliage was cleared by machine. Trench 3 was 4.3m by 1.5m and 0.5m deep. Deposits between the trench and the wall had been partially disturbed by a modern pipe [004] sitting in a vertical position in a large cut [005] to the north of the trench.

Fragmentary remains of a north - south aligned wall tied in to the pre-19th century frontage were found at a depth of 0.18m below the present ground surface (Illus 4). These consisted of a single large *in situ* stone with a few smaller packing stones [009]. The trench was extended up to the frontage around the wall in order to establish a clear relationship between them. The stones were located within a robbed out foundation trench and were aligned with a break visible in the southern face of the northern garden wall of the manse. It was not possible to determine with certainty that they were tied in to the wall but in the opinion of the excavator it was likely that this was the case. This cut continued west across Trench 3 although any other foundation stones which it may have contained appeared to have been removed. The fill of this robbed out foundation trench contained a few small pieces of mortar, charcoal and shattered stone.

5.2 Historic Building Recording

A full photographic record was made of a 20m stretch of the north wall, from the western end where it butts up against the gatehouse (Illus 5–9). A measured sketch was also made noting all visible features. It appears that while the medieval/post-medieval buildings were cleared down to the foundation, their frontage was retained in order to provide a wall for the garden. The wall is rubble-built and of randomly coursed sandstone with a rounded cement or lime mortar coping along the top. This wall appears to have been approximately 1.3m in height along Old Church Lane, but as much as 2m in height above the ground level on the southern side of the wall due to a relative drop in ground levels on either side of the wall.

A number of relict features were visible including a blocked doorway, another possible doorway and a relieving arch, immediately above which was a blocked up gun loop or port hole feature, apparently *in situ* (being composed of two blocks). To either side of the relieving arch at equal distances lay two bricked up windows. The upper courses of the north garden wall (roughly the top metre of the wall) were comparatively recent in date with no relict features.

If the original intention of those who had cleared the medieval/post-medieval buildings had been to have a wall at the present height then it seems likely that they would have preserved more of the clearly truncated frontage. Therefore these upper courses are likely to have been a later addition. Both the pre-19th century frontage and the



Illus 8

A possible wall stub in the south face of the north garden wall of Duddingston Manse which appears to be aligned with a line of stones [009] found in Trench 3



Illus 9

A possible doorway or window at the western end of the south face of the north garden wall of Duddingston Manse

more recent upper courses had been repointed with lime mortar and again with cement at some point.

6. DISCUSSION

The absence of artefacts in any of the deposits encountered in the three evaluation trenches and the apparent robbing out of the wall foundations in Trench 3 suggest that the area behind the frontage of the pre-19th century buildings was stripped down to the natural glacial till, with the vast majority of demolished material having been removed from this part of the site. It is possible that the whole area was excavated and lowered at the time and this might account for the difference in height between the northern and southern sides of the wall. It is probable that this building was part of or related to the original manse of Duddingston Kirk. The demolition probably occurred around 1805 when the present manse was built.

The exact nature of the building is difficult to reconstruct from an examination of the walls, as only the lower parts survive and the visible evidence is inconclusive. Cartographic evidence suggests that there was a single major building here with few or no buildings in the area of the gardens to the east of it. The majority of features preserved within the north wall of the manse garden are concentrated in the western end where Roy's map suggests that this building was. A doorway visible further to the east close to the present gates (themselves probably of 1805) was perhaps an earlier pedestrian entrance to the gardens from Old Church Lane.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

Cant, M., 1986, *Villages of Edinburgh*. [Vol. 1] Edinburgh.
Sinclair, J., 1791–99, *The Statistical Account of Scotland*. [Vol. 18].

7.2 Cartographic Sources

The following cartographic sources (listed in chronological order) held by the National Library of Scotland were consulted:

Roy, W., 1747–55, *A Military Survey Of Scotland*.
Scott, R., 1805, *The Strangers Guide, being a Plan of Edinburgh & Leith exhibiting all the streets principal buildings & late improvements Edinburgh*.
Ordnance Survey Map, 1853, *Edinburghshire*. Sheet 2, 1:10,560.
Ordnance Survey Map, 1885, *Edinburghshire*. Sheet 2, 1:10,560.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Site Registers

Context Register

Context	Area	Description
001	Tr.1 and 2	Topsoil
002	Tr.1 and 2	Interface layer
003	Tr.1	Subsoil
004	Tr.3	Topsoil
005	Tr.3	Modern pipe trench
006	Tr.3	Cut of pipe
007	Tr.3	Demolition debris
008	Tr.3	Cut of robber trench
009	Tr.3	Wall foundation (remains of.)

Photographic Register

Photo	Type	Facing	Description
01	Colour slide and digital	–	ID shot
02	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.9–13m east of watch tower
03	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.13–17m east of watch tower
04	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall – W part of arch at c.20m
05	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall – E part of arch at c.20m
06	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall – arch at c.20m
07	Colour slide and digital	NW	Watch tower corner
08	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.0–4m east of watch tower
09	Colour slide and digital	NE	SW facing section of Trench 1
10	Colour slide and digital	NW	General shot of Trench 1
11	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall (see Drawing #2)
12	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (W–E, 1)
13	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (2)
14	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (3)
15	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (4)
16	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (5)
17	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (6)
18	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (7)
19	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall (8)
20	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (9)
21	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (10)
22	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (11)
23	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (12)
24	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (13)

Photo	Type	Facing	Description
25	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (14)
26	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (15)
27	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (16)
28	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (17)
29	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (18)
30	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (19)
31	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (20)
32	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (21)
33	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (22)
34	Digital only	S	North face of north garden wall (23)
35	Colour slide and digital	S	North face of north garden wall – detail of arch and loop
36	Colour slide and digital	W	Trench 2 – general shot
37	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.1–2m east of watch tower
38	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.2–6m east of watch tower
39	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.2–6m east of watch tower
40	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.9m east of watch tower
41	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.9m east of watch tower
42	Colour slide and digital	N	South face of north garden wall c.13m east of watch tower
43	Colour slide and digital	NW	Trench 3, south-facing section, west end
44	Colour slide and digital	N	Trench 3, south-facing section, middle
45	Colour slide and digital	N	Trench 3, south-facing section, showing [009]
46	Colour slide and digital	N	Trench 3, south-facing section, east end
47	Colour slide and digital	E	Wall foundation [009]
48	Colour slide and digital	N	Wall foundation [009]
49	Colour slide and digital	N	Wall foundation [009]
50	Colour slide and digital	N	Wall foundation [009] with wall stub visible in background
51	Colour slide and digital	N	Wall foundation [009] with wall stub visible in background

Appendix 2 – DES Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh City Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Archaeological Evaluation and Historic Building Recording at Duddingston Manse Gardens
PROJECT CODE:	DKOC10
PARISH:	Edinburgh City
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	John McCarthy
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation and Historic Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SE 3716 (manse and walls), NT27SE 3714 (watch house)
OASIS NO:	HEADLAND1-85018
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Manse and walls; watch house
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 2835 7262
START DATE (this season)	August 2010
END DATE (this season)	September 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	No previous work recorded but there may have been a 1970s evaluation which has not been recorded according to the architects.
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Headland Archaeology Ltd conducted an evaluation and a level 1 programme of historic building recording at Duddingston Manse, Duddingston. The work was undertaken to fulfil a planning condition imposed by the City of Edinburgh Council prior to a proposed redevelopment of the site. The historic building assessment focused on a stretch of wall bordering the proposed development which contained traces of a pre-19th century building frontage. The evaluation comprised trial trenching (three trenches) to the rear of the upstanding frontage. All three trenches were excavated in the north-west corner of the manse garden, within the ground plan of the proposed development. In the first two trenches undisturbed glacial till was uncovered within 0.30 m from the present ground surface and all layers of archaeological interest had been removed when the manse was relocated. The final trench which was undertaken during the monitoring phase revealed traces of wall foundations. No pottery was recovered from the overlying topsoil suggesting that the soil here may have been imported after the deposits associated with the manse were removed. The recording of the wall to the north showed that the frontage of pre-19th century buildings were preserved to a height of up to 2.5 m and that the wall had been raised by approximately 1 m in more recent times.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	none
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Edinburgh City Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	13 Jane Street Edinburgh EH6 5HE Scotland
EMAIL ADDRESS:	john.mccarthy@headlandarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	NMRS