

**CALTON HILL**

**Conservation Plan**

August 1999

Appendix 2.00

Workshops & Meetings

Prepared by  
Law & Dunbar-Nasmith

## Workshops & Meetings

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## Workshops & Meetings

### Introduction

In order to achieve an understanding of the current issues affecting Calton Hill a number of workshops and discussions have been held with representatives of key interest groups and specialists at which issues were identified and explored through discussion. The format of the workshops was designed to allow views to be expressed without prejudice and knowledge to be shared. Generally the other discussions followed the same format.

The workshops, which each lasted approximately two hours, were based around a standard agenda and chaired by Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith. No attempt was made to limit the scope of discussions and each workshop was recorded. Those involved in the workshops included representatives of the:

- Astronomical Society of Edinburgh
- Calton Hill Group
- City of Edinburgh District Council Departments of Recreation, Corporate Services, Architectural Services, and Planning
- Cockburn Association
- Edinburgh New Town Conservation Committee
- Historic Scotland
- Lothian & Borders Tourist Board
- New Town Community Council
- Regent, Royal and Carlton Terraces Association
- Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland
- Scottish Natural Heritage

Separate discussions were also held with others whom members of the Calton Hill Advisory Group identified as having specialist knowledge or interests including:

George Bell	City of Edinburgh Council Department of Environmental Health
Connie Byrom	Local resident & Regent Gardens landscape expert
John Lowrey	Edinburgh University Department of Architecture
Angus Mitchell	Local resident, author, & Secretary of the Greyfriars Churchyard Trust
Ann Mitchell	Local resident & author
Allan Murray	Architect for the new Greenside Place development
Allen Simpson	Royal Museum of Scotland
Derek Weldon	Lothian & Borders Police

A record of the workshops & meetings held are included in the following notes.

Workshops & Meetings

**Dr Allen Simpson & Dr Alison Morrison-Low**  
*Royal Museum of Scotland*

27 October 1998

Notes of a meeting with Dr Allen Simpson, Dr Alison Morrison-Low and James Dunbar-Nasmith at the Royal Museum of Scotland on 27 October 1998.

The Royal Museum of Scotland is a government funded organisation, closely allied to the Royal Observatory and is automatically responsible for the care and preservation of all redundant material passed to it by government departments, universities etc.

The Greenwich Observatory no longer functions and has become the responsibility of the National Maritime Museum. It moved to Herstmonceux Castle in Sussex after the war and there was the possibility of a merger with the ROE, but this did not happen. Its telescope has recently been moved to Tenerife, the idea originally of Piazzi Smyth, and the Astronomer Royal is now based at Cambridge.

History is well described in David Bryden's Annals of Science, 1990.

RMS have some three hundred items with Calton Hill connections, with some fifty of them on permanent exhibition. Alison Morrison-Low will let us have a comprehensive list by Christmas. Many have already been repaired and conserved, but much work is still required; John Hazle of Ratho, a retired museum conservator and member of the Conservation Bureau, would be able to give a report on the condition of the collection and what needs to be done. Acquisitions already in official ownership are subject to a complicated system of book entries which does not involve any exchange of money.

The Crawford collection was the subject of an RMS exhibition in 1994 arranged by Alison Morrison-Low and others, held in the Museum and entitled 'A Heavenly Library'. (Catalogue in file). The Crawford collection and an extensive collection of papers are held at Blackford hall.

Mural Circle: A print of this in its original location exists in the RMS collection. Troughton's operating instructions exist in the Ambrose Heal collection in the British Museum.

One o'clock gun: George Sanderson (AM-L to confirm name) is preparing a millennium exhibition relating to it and has requested loan of appropriate material from RMS. (Note: Make contact with Sanderson). Legal action is pending over ownership of the time clock.

Checklist:

- Social: Continuous teaching connection with University, referred to in more detail in the unabridged draft of Professor Bruck's book. Derek Howse lectures (?) about Greenwich Time, time balls etc. Retired City Archivist, Dr Walker Makey, is currently writing a History of Edinburgh which will contain relevant material.
- Historical: See above.
- Architectural: Consideration should be given to establishing a Playfair Centre. Royal College of Surgeons has an archive of Playfair material.
- Ecological: X
- Scientific: See above.
- Contextual: See above.

Artistic:

Piazzi Smyth made a number of drawings and water-colours of the Calton Hill, including the trigonometric survey 1840 (?) which are at Blackford Hill. Sara Stevenson, at the portrait gallery, is the expert on Hill and Adamson and all matters photographic. Ralph Hyde recently mounted an exhibition in the Guildhall, London, called Panoramania. The science of Panorama may have started with the original Calton Hill drawings. There were two Camera Obscura on the hill at one time, one of which is now in the Outlook Tower. There exists a print by Menzies of Maria Short's Observatory, which only existed for a relatively short time. (Note: Check Edinburgh Room for its whereabouts).

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17 October 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**John Lowrey & Desmond Hodges**  
*Edinburgh University*

27 October 1998

Notes of a meeting with John Lowrey and James Dunbar-Nasmith at the Department of Architecture, Edinburgh University on 27 October 1998. Desmond Hodges attended first part of meeting.

John Lowrey organised the recent exhibition on the Calton Hill in the Matthew Art Gallery which was created because of the possible use of the site for the new Parliament Building. He is currently writing an article on 'Athens of the North' and another on the role of the Calton Hill in Urban Design.

Angus MacDonald, Head of Department, wrote an article in the Edinburgh edition of the Italian magazine 'Rassegna - 64', in either 1995 or 96, entitled 'Athens of the North' (photocopy in file). The title was taken from a phrase believed to occur in Vol 1 of Stuart and Revett, published in 1752, but Lowrey has failed to find the reference in spite of a search by students.

Lowrey will provide photocopies of all written text which was part of exhibition. (Copy in file).

Copies of Cockerel water-colours of National Monument exist in Royal Scottish Academy. (One photocopy of a Section in file). Ian Gow appears to be the expert on these water-colours. Discuss with him.

RSA also has Thomas Hamilton's Diploma Work which is a perspective of the Royal High School and adjacent buildings. (See also Alasdair MacLeod's murals in Arthur Lodge, which show all Thomas Hamilton's Edinburgh buildings).

Scottish National Gallery may have recently acquired a Turner of the Calton Hill. (Note: check with Timothy Clifford as to what else they have which might be relevant).

Checklist:

Social:	Visual, optical, photographic, authoritarian, accessible.
Historical:	See above.
Archaeological:	X
Architectural:	See above, especially Rassegna article.
Ecological:	X
Scientific:	Trigonometrical point predates Arthurs' Seat, 1820 - 30. (CF meeting with Dr Allen Simpson). Astronomical and photographic.
Contextual:	X
Artistic:	Photocopy of water-colour of suspension bridge from Calton Hill to Jeffrey Street by Sir Frank Mears and Carus Wilson now in file. (Note: Discuss Frank Mears involvement with this and other projects with Robert Nasmith?).

Strathclyde University possess a big Geddes collection, currently being researched by Volker Welter, architectural historian in Edinburgh University Department of Architecture, who is currently doing a PhD on Geddes.

Archive has evidence of a 1904 proposal by Geddes to turn the Royal High School into an art gallery.

Anthony Lewis, expert in the City Archive, is currently embarking on a PhD on James Craig.

Kitty Cruft, ex National Monuments Records, was joint editor of the book on James Craig together with Andrew Fraser, 19 Warriston Crescent, who is editor of the Old Edinburgh Club journal.

Boog Watson spent many years organising the City's collection in the Edinburgh Room, where there is a very comprehensive slide collection.

David Walker is the acknowledged expert on St Andrew's House.

Jean Cannizzo, Department of Social Anthropology is taking a sabbatical to work on the National Monument. There is much material relating to the monument in the Edinburgh Room.

City Archive has much information and work by David Octavius Hill, photographer.

Article in the July 1819 edition of Blackwoods Edinburgh Magazine. (About the Calton Hill?).

Desmond Hodges will research Calton Hill Conference file in the ENTCC and will let us have any relevant material.

Lowrey will let JD-N borrow his files for twenty-four hours to read on train. To be picked up on Tuesday 5th November.

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27 October 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**Allen Murray & Alexander Fairweather**  
*Allan Murray Architects*

17 November 1998

Notes of meeting held with Allan Murray Architects to discuss their proposals for the Greenside Place Development held on 17 November 1998 in their offices at 6.00pm.

Present:

Allan Murray	Allan Murray Architects
Alexander Fairweather	Allan Murray Architects
Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith
Mark Hopton	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith

Item	Description
1.00	The proposals are being developed on behalf of Bondway Developers.
2.00	The proposals consist of a leisure, office and retail development. Large volume spaces requiring no windows such as the cinema auditoria are located in the heart of the plan, whilst accommodation that can make a contribution to the urban form, such as shops and offices, are located around the perimeter of the development.
3.00	The height of the development generally relates to the existing roof line of the Playhouse Theatre, but rises to a tower at its western end.
4.00	The proposals incorporate a public 'square', approximately two thirds of the way along the site to the west. This square is set on the site line of views from Broughton Street to the Dugald Stewart Monument.
5.00	The roofscape of the development has been considered carefully with respect to its visual impact when viewed from Calton Hill. Accommodation is terraced and roof top level gardens are formed. The general aim has been to break down large areas of accommodation into a scale which matches surrounding traditional city blocks.
6.00	The massing of the development steps down along its southern edge to allow views from the square up to the monuments on Calton Hill.
7.00	Views of Calton Hill from varying stand points in the surrounding area have been carefully considered as has the development's appearance when viewed from Calton Hill.
8.00	Views of Greenside Parish Church from Princes Street have been carefully considered (subject to the removal of the St James' Centre bridge!).
9.00	It was confirmed that the developers would encourage public access to the new square and that the Architects were considering linking the square across to the Hill.
10.00	The possible design of the bridge link from the square to the Hill was discussed in general. Various solutions were proposed ranging from a light weight structure through to a substantial formal bridge similar to that supporting Waterloo Place.
11.00	The area on which the St James' Centre bridge lands is currently waste ground and not part of the present proposals.

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Architects

- 12.00 The materials of the proposal are predominantly stone and glass. The roofs are either terraced and landscaped or finished in metal cladding.
- 13.00 It was suggested that the St James' Centre bridge could be replaced with an additional pedestrian crossing at road level, similar to that which already exists. It was also suggested that the interior of the St James' Centre, where the bridge terminates could be positively re-planned.
- 14.00 It was noted that the Architects had presented their proposals to the Cockburn Association and to the New Town Conservation Committee and received a positive feedback.

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16 December 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**Landscape Key Interest Group**

26 November 1998

Notes of a Landscape Key Interest Group Meeting held at 16 Dublin Street on Thursday 26 November 1998, at 10.30am.

Present:

Caroline Kernan	Historic Scotland
Julie Dewar	Scottish Natural Heritage
Francis Jarvie	City of Edinburgh Council, Planning Department
John Byrom	Cockburn Association
Peter McGowan	Peter McGowan Associates, Landscape Consultant
James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Mark Hopton	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Jane Yellowlees	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects

Apologies:

Jim McKay	CEC, Parks Department
Richard Emerson	Historic Scotland

James Dunbar-Nasmith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gather together representatives from the Key Interest Group, focus discussion on their particular areas of expertise, enable knowledge to be shared which will inform the Conservation Plan and provide an opportunity to explore the future need and scope for change for Calton Hill.

The following points were noted:

Item	Description
1.00	GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN ISSUES:
1.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that four Key Interest Group meetings had been arranged focusing on the issues of Landscape, Archaeology, Residents and Management, a copy of the meetings schedule is attached with the notes. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that a copy of the notes of the Key Interest Group meetings will be included in the Conservation Plan.
1.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith tabled a copy of the proposed Conservation Plan Structure for discussion, a copy of which is attached.
1.03	Peter McGowan asked if literary descriptions of the hill should be included in the study. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed descriptions from distinguished writers i.e. Cockburn, Stevenson, Scott and notable early travellers were being collected as part of the general history and development of Calton Hill.

- 1.04 Dr John Byrom suggested that a section on the national identity and image of the hill in the Conservation Plan was perhaps as important as the section on the world context.
- 1.05 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that the use of Calton Hill for religious and musical events is being researched as part of the study of the history of the hill. Dr John Byrom noted that there appeared to be a limited history of musical events held there.
- 1.06 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that views from and to the hill were equally important and confirmed that analysis of the historical, existing and future potential of views to and from the hill would be included as part of the Conservation Plan.
- 2.00 GENERAL LANDSCAPE ISSUES:
- 2.01 Dr John Byrom stated that Calton Hill is believed to be amongst one of the earliest public city parks in Britain.
- 2.02 Caroline Kernan noted that Calton Hill was included in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Design Landscape, as part of their New Town study. Caroline Kernan agreed to forward a copy of the relevant information on Calton Hill.
- 2.02.1 Caroline Kernan advised that Historic Scotland were, at present, preparing an assessment of significance, Calton Hill has been identified as being highly significant on several accounts. Caroline Kernan agreed to forward a copy of the draft report to James Dunbar-Nasmith together with any background information used in the preparation of the statement on Calton Hill.
- 2.03 Francis Jarvie noted that there are a large number of historical views and vistas of Calton Hill. Peter McGowan confirmed that historical views and vistas would form a very important part of the landscape study.
- 2.04 Peter McGowan advised that they would be looking at the landscape of the hill at different scales, including a study of the site in detail, within its immediate city surroundings, within the city as a whole and within the wider national context.
- 2.05 Peter McGowan stated that he would be contacting Annette Patterson, CEC, to obtain information on the recent excavation of trial pits on the Hill.
- 2.06 Peter McGowan stated that he would also be contacting Jim McKay, CEC, to obtain information on the newly completed path works on the hill.
- 2.07 Dr John Byrom advised that his wife, Connie Byrom, was presently preparing a book on the Edinburgh New Town Gardens which includes a history of the Regent Gardens.
- 2.08 Dr John Byrom also advised that he was preparing a book on Calton Hill, due for publication in 1999. James Dunbar-Nasmith stressed that he trusted Dr John Byrom would make available any information he thought necessary to the preparation of the Conservation Plan.
- 2.09 Francis Jarvie noted that there is no design section in the Parks Department all design work is carried out by the Landscape Department. At present there are no routine joint working parties for general maintenance work. Such meetings are only held for special projects.

3.00 GEOLOGY:

- 3.01 Dr John Byrom advised that there are a large number of studies available on the geology of Calton Hill. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that information on the geology of the hill will be included in the site section of the Conservation Plan.
- 3.02 Julie Dewar confirmed that the site of Arthur's Seat Volcano, a composite site in three parts including Holyrood Park, the Castle Rock and Calton Hill, is designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest, (SSSI). Julie Dewar advised that Calton Hill is principally included for its geological interest; all rock exposures both natural and man-made, have been located and critical areas identified.
- 3.02.1 Julie Dewar passed a copy of the SSSI designation and a copy of the Description and Earth Science Site Documentation to James Dunbar-Nasmith. Julie Dewar requested that the information be returned to her by the end of January 1999.
- 3.02.2 Julie Dewar agreed to forward any other relevant information relating to the SSSI designation for Calton Hill.
- 3.03 Julie Dewar advised that Scottish National Heritage would require formal notification of any proposals for landscape works on Calton Hill. Julie Dewar stated that whilst, in principal, all rock exposures must be retained intact, Scottish Natural Heritage would have no objections to their enhancement as part of general landscaping improvements on the hill.

4.00 ECOLOGY

- 4.01 Dr John Byrom advised that, as far as he is aware, there is only one detailed study of the ecology of Calton Hill. The study was carried out by Bill Cairns for the Council and completed in 1996. Dr John Byrom noted that the study identifies over 100 different habitats on the hill, most of which are duplicated in Holyrood Park. Peter McGowan confirmed that Annette Patterson, CEC, has agreed to source a copy for the study.
- 4.01.1 Dr John Byrom advised that a Katrina Robertson was also involved in the preparation of the study with Bill Cairns.

5.00 ARCHAEOLOGY:

- 5.01 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that an archaeological desk-based study of Calton hill is in progress.
- 5.01.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith also advised that in support of the archaeological desk-based study, a contour survey of the hill is being carried out to look at ground variations which may suggest areas of special archaeological interest in the existing landscape.

6.00 BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS:

- 6.01 Dr John Byrom advised that he had some interesting information on the Calton Hill Burial Grounds including plans. Dr John Byrom agreed to liaise with James Dunbar-Nasmith regarding information which may be helpful to the study.

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### Architects

- 6.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith asked if anyone knew of any information on the orientation and sighting of the monuments on Calton Hill. Dr John Byrom advised that there appeared to be no written records but he had undertaken a study of likely reasons as to their positions would be happy to discuss likely theories at a separate meeting with James Dunbar-Nasmith.
- 6.03 Dr John Byrom advised that one of the original Bridewell cells still exists within the basement of St Andrews House.
- 6.04 Dr John Byrom advised that records indicate that the site of the Cromwellian Fort was under the General Post Office on Waterloo Place.
- 6.04 Dr John Byrom noted that the form of the Royal High School had been largely dictated by the site and its relationship to the Burns Monument, also by Thomas Hamilton, and that a significant amount of rock must have been removed during its building.
- 7.00 ACCESS AND SHELTER
- 7.01 Dr John Byrom advised that he had sourced interesting information on access roads and bridges including Regent Bridge and Waterloo Place in the Stevenson archives. Dr John Byrom agreed to liaise with James Dunbar-Nasmith regarding any information which may be helpful to the study.
- 7.02 Dr John Byrom noted that the bridge from St James' Centre was erected with only temporary planning approval. As many of the original reasons for its erection, including a six lane motorway under Calton Hill and Prince's Street had not been realised, Dr John Byrom questioned its future. James Dunbar-Nasmith agreed its future would, along with the general access issues, be considered in the Conservation Plan.
- 7.03 Peter McGowan noted that there is a real lack of signage on Calton Hill which makes access and orientation difficult for visitors to the hill.
- 7.04 Dr John Byrom advised that he was in the process of carrying out a survey of visitors to Calton Hill as part of the research for his book. Although the study is not due to be completed until Summer 1999, Dr John Byrom agreed to make his preliminary findings available in January for the draft Conservation Plan.
- 7.04.1 Dr John Byrom noted that the peak time for access by the tour buses was between May and July. There is a charge of £5.00 per bus.
- 7.05 Francis Jarvie stated that there was a possibility of funding for an access study from the Planning Department, CEC.
- 7.06 Dr John Byrom noted that, at present, access to the hill top by bus was managed whilst cars were not. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that possibility of remote parking for cars and buses, including Greenside Place, would be looked at within the Conservation Plan.
- 7.16.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that Alan Murray had presented his revised scheme for Greenside Place to James Dunbar-Nasmith and Mark Hopton, L&D-N. The Scheme, which illustrates a sensitivity for both views and access to Calton Hill, includes a proposal for a bridge link to the hill.

- 7.07 Dr John Byrom noted that Calton Hill remained the only real view point of the city accessible by vehicle and that whilst the removal of vehicles was desirable, alternatives for disabled and elderly vehicle access must be considered.
- 7.08 The lack of any shelter on Calton hill was raised as a problem for visitors by Dr John Byrom. Dr John Byrom suggested a study of wind speeds might be useful as part of the study.
- 7.09 The issue of visitor facilities on the hill top was raised by Francis Jarvie. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that the possibility of either a new structure or the use of an existing building would be considered as part within the Conservation Plan.
- 7.09.1 Julie Dewar agreed to forward SNH publications on access studies and visitor centres
- 8.00 APPROPRIATE CONSULTANTS:
- 8.01 Caroline Kernan asked if any contact had been made with the Head Gardener of Regent Gardens. Peter McGowan confirmed that he had already made arrangements to meet him.
- 8.02 Caroline Kernan noted that John Lowery, Edinburgh University, had carried out a great deal of useful research on Calton Hill. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed they had already had a meeting with him which had proved very informative.
- 8.02.1 Dr John Byrom noted that John Lowery has information on the prisons and jails sited on Calton Hill. Dr John Byrom suggested that he would contact him with a view to obtaining any useful information for the study.
- 8.03 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that they would be contacting Morton Hall Crematorium regarding information on the Calton Hill Burying Grounds. Dr John Byrom advised that George Bell, Morton Hall Crematorium, was a useful contact.
- 8.04 James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that they would be arranging a meeting with the Police, shortly. Dr John Byrom suggested that any information on incidents and accidents on the hill from the Police would be useful.
- 8.05 Dr John Byrom queried whether any contact had been made with the residents and proprietors of Waterloo Place. Francis Jarvie suggested that as Jim McKay, CEC, had an office on Waterloo Place, James Dunbar-Nasmith should liaise with him.
- 8.06 Dr John Byrom suggested that contact should be made with the Scottish Office, St Andrew's House. James Dunbar-Nasmith agreed that they should be informed that a Conservation Plan was being prepared and information on the building's future be obtained.
- 8.06.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that architects Reiach and Hall were presently involved in proposals for the refurbishment of St Andrew's House.
- 8.07 Julie Dewar noted that a bio-diversity plan had been prepared for the area of Calton Hill, Karen Chalmers from the Scottish Wildlife Trust was involved in its preparation.

9.00 MANAGEMENT ISSUES:

- 9.01 Caroline Kernan noted the importance of the Calton Hill Burial Grounds and suggested that consideration be given to the future access by the public as well as the maintenance of the grounds and the monuments.
- 9.02 Francis Jarvie noted that the future of the Royal High School was now an important issue. Given that the building was no longer to be used to house the Scottish Parliament, Francis Jarvie suggested that its future role in the context of the hill should be given consideration within the Conservation Plan.
- 9.03 Dr John Byrom noted the importance of St Andrew's House and the Governor's House within the context of the study. Dr John Byrom suggested that issues such as their future use and whether public access could or should be maintained to the buildings should be looked at.

Workshops & Meetings

**Residents Key Interest Group**

26 November 1998

Notes of a Residents Key Interest Group Meeting held at 16 Dublin Street on Thursday 26 November 1998, at 5.00pm.

Present:

Alan Wilson	New Town Community Council
Lorna Gillespie	Calton Hill Residents Association
Leslie Kerr	Regent, Royal and Carlton Terraces Residents Association
Peter McGowan	Peter McGowan Associates, Landscape Consultant
James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Jane Yellowlees	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects

James Dunbar-Nasmith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gather together representatives from the Key Interest Group, focus discussion on their particular areas of expertise, enable knowledge to be shared which will inform the Conservation Plan and provide an opportunity to explore the future need and scope for change for Calton Hill.

The following points were noted:

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1.00	GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN ISSUES:
1.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that four Key Interest Group meetings had been arranged focusing on the issues of Landscape, Archaeology, Residents and Management, a copy of the meetings schedule is attached. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that a copy of the notes of the Key Interest Group meetings, will be included in the Conservation Plan.
1.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith tabled a copy of the proposed Conservation Plan Structure for discussion, a copy of which is attached.
1.02.1	James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that a study of the geology of the hill will be included under the site section of the Conservation Plan.
1.03	Alan Wilson noted that the area of Calton Hill is not covered by any of the Edinburgh Community Councils.
2.00	LANDSCAPE:
2.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that, with the exception of New Lanark, Calton Hill was one of the oldest, public city parks in Britain.
2.02	Peter McGowan briefly described the scope of the landscape study of Calton Hill which, he advised, will include a survey of the existing landscape, a survey of the ecology and a study of the hill in context.
2.02.1	Peter McGowan confirmed that a study of the historical plans and views of Calton Hill will form an important part of the landscape section of the Conservation Plan.

- 2.03 Lorna Gillespie suggested that the Byrom survey of Regent Gardens may be useful. Lorna Gillespie has a copy.
- 2.04 Peter McGowan confirmed that a copy of Bill Cairns' Survey of the ecology on the hill was being sourced from Annette Paterson, CEC.
- 2.04.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that the Cairns Report identifies over 100 habitats, the majority of which are duplicated in Holyrood Park. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that the only known species of unique ecological interest on the hill appears to be a rare spider.
- 2.05 James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that Calton Hill is part of site designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which includes Holyrood Park and the Castle Rock.
- 2.06 Alan Wilson noted his concern that the wilderness aspect of the hill landscape should not be lost.
- 2.06.1 Peter McGowan advised that recommendations for the management of the landscape will be included in the Conservation Plan.
  
- 3.00 ARCHAEOLOGY:
- 3.01 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that all aspects of the archaeology of the hill were being investigated. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that the Archaeological Study included an analysis of historical maps and views as well as aerial photographs in order to identify features and areas of potential archaeological interest.
- 3.01.1 Peter McGowan advised that in support of the archaeology desk-based study, a contour survey of the hill is being carried out to look at ground variations which may suggest areas of special archaeological interest in the existing landscape.
- 3.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that the Archaeological Consultant was sourcing information from Annette Paterson, CEC, on recent trial pits excavated on the hill.
  
- 4.00 BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS:
- 4.01 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that contact had been made with John Lowery, Edinburgh University, and that information has been sourced from the University's Playfair Archive.
- 4.02 Lorna Gillespie advised that she had given information to Graham Rule, Royal Astronomical Society, on the Nelson Monument Time Ball including papers relating to its design.
- 4.03 Lorna Gillespie stated that she had some interesting plans c1816 and prints of Calton Hill.
- 4.04 Lorna Gillespie suggested that the future use of the Royal High School and St Andrew's House should be considered within the Conservation Plan.
- 4.04.1 Lorna Gillespie advised that there was a proposal by Dr Byrom for the restoration of the walk behind the Royal High School. James Dunbar-Nasmith agreed that the proposal should be considered within the Conservation Plan.

- 4.05 Lorna Gillespie noted concern at any proposals for new building developments on the hill, she felt that sufficient structures had already been built.
- 4.06 Leslie Kerr, Lorna Gillespie and Alan Wilson agreed that they had no objections, in principle, to the existing buildings being used for activities appropriate to the hill, i.e. as Park Ranger accommodation or as visitor facilities.
- 5.00 SOCIAL:
- 5.01 Alan Wilson suggested that important visitor recollections should be included as part of the study. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that description of the hill by notable writers including Scott, Stevenson and Cockburn were being collected as part of the general history of the site.
- 5.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that Dr Byrom was in the process of carrying out a survey of visitors to Calton Hill and has agreed to make his initial findings available, in January, for the Conservation Plan.
- 5.03 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that Ann Mitchell's book on the people of Calton Hill is a useful source of information for the historical and social aspects of the study
- 5.04 Alan Wilson noted that there was a history of festivals being held on Calton Hill, some of which continue to be held today. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that the research on the history of the site included sourcing information on important musical and religious events.
- 5.04.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that, if possible, a schedule of recent events on the hill would be sourced from the City of Edinburgh Council.
- 5.05 Lorna Gillespie suggested that a manuscript with photographs on the history of Greenside in the Edinburgh Room, Edinburgh Central Library, may be of interest. Lorna Gillespie will confirm study title and author.
- 5.06 Peter McGowan noted that undesirable as well as desirable social activities must be included in the Conservation Plan. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed a meeting with the Police is to be arranged shortly.
- 6.00 ACCESS:
- 6.01 James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that recommendations for both the means and management of access to Calton Hill will form a very important part of the Conservation Plan.
- 6.02 Lorna Gillespie noted that mid morning was a busy time for the arrival of bus tours, often 5-6 buses would arrive at the same time, stay 10-15 minutes and then leave.
- 6.03 Lorna Gillespie advised that there had been a previous proposal to park buses in Regent's Road and to access the top of the hill by a travelator from there.
- 6.04 James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested an another possible site for both car and bus parking was in Greenside Place, however, new paths and a link bridge would be required to access the top of the hill. Leslie Kerr, Lorna Gillespie and Alan Wilson welcomed the idea and agreed they the option should be given consideration in the Conservation Plan.

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Architects

- 6.04.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that Alan Murray had presented his revised scheme for Greenside Place to James Dunbar-Nasmith and Mark Hopton, L&D-N. The proposals which illustrate a sensitivity for views and access to Calton Hill, includes a bridge access to the hill.
- 6.05 Alan Wilson noted that part of the attraction of allowing vehicles to the top of the hill is that it allows quick and easy access and that remote parking may deter some visitors.
- 6.06 Leslie Kerr noted that the bridge link from the St James Centre to the hill was built as a temporary link. James Dunbar-Nasmith agreed the future of the bridge and alternative means of crossing to the hill at street level would be considered as part of the Conservation Plan.
- 6.07 Lorna Gillespie noted that Bye-Laws were no longer posted on the hill.
- 6.08 Lorna Gillespie advised that the gates to the hill and to the Graveyards were no longer closed at night.
- 6.09 The possibility of a Visitor Centre or Information Point for Calton Hill was raised by James Dunbar-Nasmith. In principle all present preferred the option of a remote location allied to visitor parking. There was no real objection to the possible use of existing structures on the hill by Leslie Kerr, Lorna Gillespie and Alan Wilson, however, they felt that there would be a strong resistance by all the residents to any proposals for new structures to be erected on the hill top.
- 7.00 APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS:
- 7.01 Lorna Gillespie advised that Judy Greenwood, Rock House, has useful information on Calton Hill birds.
- 7.01.1 Leslie Kerr suggested that the Scottish Ornithological Society may also have useful information on the birdlife of the hill and gardens. Leslie Kerr agreed to give Peter McGowan details of a possible contact in the Society.
- 7.02 Leslie Kerr suggested Alistair Campbell, Head Gardener, Regent Gardens, would be a valuable contact on both landscape and wildlife issues. Peter McGowan advised he had already made contact with him.
- 7.03 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that a useful meeting had been held with Graham Rule, Royal Astronomical Society, on the observatories and scientific instruments.
- 7.03.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that a meeting had been held with the Royal Museum of Scotland regarding items in their collection, including scientific instruments, with connections to Calton Hill.
- 7.04 Leslie Kerr suggested that a useful contact for information on the usage of the hill would be the Park Warden, CEC.

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3 December 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**Archaeology Key Interest Group**

26 November 1998

Notes of an Archaeology Key Interest Group Meeting held at 16 Dublin Street on Thursday 26 November 1998, at 2.30pm.

Present:

Mark Collard	CEC, Department of Recreation
Deborah Robertson	CEC, Planning Department
Rod McCullagh	AOC Archaeology Group
James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Jane Yellowlees	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects

James Dunbar-Nasmith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gather together representatives from the Key Interest Group, focus discussion on their particular areas of expertise, enable knowledge to be shared which will inform the Conservation Plan and provide an opportunity to explore the future need and scope for change for Calton Hill.

The following points were noted:

Item	Description
1.00	GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN ISSUES
1.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that four Key Interest Group meetings had been arranged focusing on the issues of Landscape, Archaeology, Residents and Management, a copy of the meetings schedule is attached. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that a copy of the notes of the Key Interest Group meetings will be included in the Conservation Plan.
1.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith tabled a copy of the proposed Conservation Plan Structure for discussion, a copy of which is attached.
1.03	Deborah Robertson suggested that a sequence of plans illustrating the development of built form and landscape on the site should be included in the Conservation Plan. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that a study of the sequence of built and landscape development through maps is included as part of the landscape study.
1.04	Rod McCullagh briefly described the scope of the Archaeological desk-based study, the main focus of which will be to source evidence of all structures erected on the hill which have since been partly or wholly removed.
1.04.1	Rod McCullagh advised that in support of the Archaeological Desk Based Study of the hill, a Digital Elevational Model Survey of the hill top has been commissioned to identify ground variations which may suggest areas of special archaeological interest in the landscape.

2.00 BURIAL GROUNDS

2.01 Rod McCullagh advised that no documented records of any burial grounds on the hill prior to the Old Calton Hill Burying Ground have been found. Rod McCullagh advised that they were, however, investigating a reference to the discovery and excavation of bones in the North-East corner of the Observatory enclosure.

2.02 Rod McCullagh noted that there was limited information on the Jewish cemetery on the Hill. Mark Collard advised that there is a reference to a cave on the hill, which may or may not be the Jewish cemetery. Mark Collard will forward a copy to Rod McCullagh.

3.00 EARLY SETTLEMENTS

3.01 Rod McCullagh stated that although there appears to be no documented evidence of any prehistoric settlements on Calton Hill, a preliminary study of both early maps and aerial photographs has revealed features which could be interpreted as consistent with a prehistoric site.

3.01.1 Mark Collard agreed that, as there was evidence of prehistoric sites on both Arthur's Seat and Castle Rock, it would not be surprising if Calton Hill was used for prehistoric settlement and or burials.

3.02 Rod McCullagh noted that, as yet, he had found no evidence of natural water supply or early wells on the hill, the lack of which may have prevented the use of the site for settlement.

4.00 BUILDING AND MONUMENTS

4.01 Rod McCullagh advised that he had found evidence that the site of St Ninians' Chapel is under the West pier of Regent's Bridge.

4.02 Rod McCullagh stated that the stones for Trinity Chapel, which had been demolished for the building of the railway lines, were stored on Calton Hill until they were gradually removed to be used in other building projects. The Architect David Bryce was involved in the taking down of the Chapel.

4.03 Rod McCullagh advised that there was evidence on the site of a Chapel, Friary and Leper Hospital in Greenside Place.

4.04 Rod McCullagh stated that the 19th century OS maps would suggest that the two existing railway tunnels were built in sequence. Rod McCullagh confirmed that the history of the railway tunnels would be the subject of future study.

4.05 Rod McCullagh stated that they had been unable to trace the location of the Lancaster School on Calton Hill. Jane Yellowlees suggested that there may be information in Markus, Thomas A., "Order in Space and Society", 1982.

4.06 Mark Collard confirmed that the trial pits excavated in the area of the Observatory enclosure had been carried out under the supervision of Mark Collard's assistant John Lawson. Mark Collard advised that no items of archaeological interest were found. Rod McCullagh agreed to liaise with Annette Patterson, CEC, regarding information on the trial pits.

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- 4.07 Rod McCullagh stated that they were researching the existence of various wooden structures erected on the Hill, including Maria Short's Camera Obscura building, masons shelters, and Robert Forrest's sculpture exhibition building.
- 4.08 Rod McCullagh confirmed that they were also sourcing information on the sequence of the development of the observatories and the walled enclosure. Rod McCullagh advised that they were investigating the possibility of a rotating top to Craig's Observatory.
- 5.00 LANDSCAPE
- 5.01 Rod McCullagh stated that as part of the study they were using aerial photographs to identify possible areas of archaeological interest in the landscape. Rod McCullagh agreed to source a colour print of the most recent aerial survey photograph of site.
- 5.02 Rod McCullagh stated that they were in the process of carrying out a study of historical maps in order to trace developments in the landscape and buildings on the hill.
- 5.02.1 Rod McCullagh noted that study of early maps had identified site of various quarries on the Hill, including one to the East (where the Royal High School is now), and one to the North (in the area previously known as Quarry Holes).
- 5.03 Mark Collard advised that Calton Hill may have been used as a reference point for ships entering Leith harbour. Rod McCullagh noted that there is evidence of early mast like structures, in historical prints, on the site of the Dugald Stewart Monument and the existing trig point. James Dunbar-Nasmith and Rod McCullagh agreed that the possibility of the use of the hill as a reference point for ships should be investigated further.
- 6.00 MILITARY USES:
- 6.01 Rod McCullagh advised that there are records of military occupations of the hill, including the occupation by supporters of Mary Queen of Scots against those of James VI during the Civil War (1567-73), and as part of Leslie's defences against Cromwell in 1650.
- 6.02 Rod McCullagh noted that they had been unable to find evidence of the sites of the cannons which were removed during the Second World War. Jane Yellowlees advised that Graham Rule has a copy of a view of Calton Hill with the cannons shown. Rod McCullagh to contact Graham Rule in order to obtain further information on possible cannon sites.
- 7.00 APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS
- 7.01 Rod McCullagh suggested that formal contact should be made with the Archaeology Department Royal Commission on Historical and Ancient Monuments of Scotland. Rod McCullagh agreed to write to Jack Stevenson, Archaeology Department, RCHAMS, advising him of the preparation of the Conservation Plan and the parties involved.
- 7.02 Rod McCullagh and Mark Collard confirmed that there are no scheduled monuments on the site.
- 7.03 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that they were liaising with Deborah Howard, Architectural Historian, on architectural matters.

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Architects

- 7.04 Rod McCullagh suggested that Angus Mitchell would be a useful contact for information on Calton Hill Burying Grounds. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that contact with Angus Mitchell has already been made.
- 7.05 Both Rod McCullagh and James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that they had already held meetings with Graham Rule, Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, and had gained useful information on the history of the Observatories and the scientific instruments.
- 7.06 Deborah Robertson suggested that a copy of the Historic Scotland Technical Advice Note on Conservation Charters and Standards by Dorothy Bell should be obtained. James Dunbar-Nasmith agreed that they would contact Historic Scotland to obtain a copy.

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2 December 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**Management Key Interest Group**

3 December 1998

Notes of a Management Key Interest Group Meeting held at 16 Dublin Street on 3 December 1998, at 4.00pm.

Present:

Deirdre Wynn	CEC, Department of Corporate Services
Derek Janes	CEC, Department of Recreation, Arts & Heritage
Annette Patterson	CEC, Department of Corporate Services, Architectural Services
Mark Collard	CEC, Department of Recreation, Curatorial Services
Stephen Hajduki	CEC, Planning Department
Richard Griffiths	Edinburgh New Town Conservation Committee
Jack Munro	Lothian & Borders Tourist Board
Richard Emerson	Historic Scotland
Peter McGowan	Peter McGowan Associates, Landscape Consultant
James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Jane Yellowlees	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Mark Hopton	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects

Apologies:

Jim McKay	CEC, Department of Recreation, Parks Department
David Hume	CEC, Department of Corporate Services

James Dunbar-Nasmith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to gather together representatives from the Key Interest Group, focus discussion and on their particular area of expertise, in this case the management of Calton Hill, and enable knowledge to be shared which will inform the Conservation Plan.

The following points were noted:

Item	Description
1.00	GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN ISSUES:
1.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that four Key Interest Group Meetings had been arranged focusing on the issues of Landscape, Archaeology, Residents and Management. A copy of the meetings schedule was issued to those present. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that a copy of the notes of all the Key Interest Group Meetings will be included in the Conservation Plan.
1.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith issued a copy of the proposed Conservation Plan Structure to all present.
2.00	ACCESS AND PARKING:
2.01	There was a general agreement by all present that visitor traffic and parking should be removed from the hill top.

- 2.02 Annette Patterson noted that there would still be a requirement to provide parking for the users of the Observatory, the Curator of the Nelson Monument and service vehicles.
- 2.03 Stephen Hajduki noted his concern that the loss of vehicle access may reduce numbers of visitors. All present agreed that the desire to visit the Hill especially by pedestrians will be driven by the quality of experience offered.
- 2.03.1 Annette Patterson stated that part of the reason for the limited stay time of present visitors, including bus tours, was the lack of activities once they reached the hill top.
- 2.03.2 Richard Griffiths noted the contrast between the experience of Calton Hill and the very popular Botanic Gardens which, in addition to the gardens themselves, offers the visitor the added attractions of Tea Garden, Exhibition Centre and hot houses.
- 2.04 Jack Munro stated that Lothian & Borders Tourist Board were concerned that at present bus tours visiting Edinburgh brought little or nothing to the City. Jack Munro advised that Lothian & Borders Tourist Board would have no major objections to a pedestrian strategy for Calton Hill.
- 2.04.1 Jack Munro advised that a recent study of the pedestrians that arrive in Edinburgh concluded that 5% arrive by private bus and 3% by bus tours.
- 2.05 Derek Janes noted that if traffic was excluded from the Hill then an alternative means of transport must be provided for disabled visitors.
- 2.05.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested the options of train or tram access to the hill top should be investigated. Stephen Hajduki noted that the cost of such a proposal may be prohibitive.
- 2.05.2 Richard Emerson advised that the present bus arrangements for disabled visitors at the Castle is now funded through sponsorship.
- 2.05.3 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted there have been previous proposals for escalators to the hill top. All agreed access by escalators would be detrimental to the appreciation of the Hill and therefore were not appropriate.
- 2.06 Richard Emerson noted that the practice of bus parking is already established in Regent Road and London Road. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that buses also frequently park in the area fronting St Andrew's House. There was no suggestion by those present for the practice of bus parking in these areas to be stopped.
- 2.06.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested that there was a possible site for both car and bus parking in Greenside Place. Suitable paths and a bridge access would have to be constructed to facilitate access to the hill top.
- 2.06.2 James Dunbar-Nasmith reported that Allan Murray had presented his revised scheme for the Greenside Development to James Dunbar-Nasmith and Mark Hopton, L&D-N. The proposals exhibit a sensitivity to Calton Hill, including an awareness of the potential impact on access and views to and from the proposed Development. The scheme also proposes a bridge link to the Hill which offers a possible link to visitor parking.

- 3.00 SECURITY:
- 3.01 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that a meeting with the Police would be arranged.
- 3.02 Stephen Hajduki noted that some of the best views of the City from Calton Hill were at night but the lack, or perceived lack, of safe access was a real deterrent to the possible enjoyment by both visitors and locals.
- 3.03 Annette Patterson noted that access to the hill top at night is required by both the users of the Observatory and the Curator of the Nelson Monument.
- 3.04 Mark Collard suggested that an active night warden patrol as used in the Meadows, Edinburgh, should be considered.
- 3.05 Stephen Hajduki suggested that the possibility of establishing an organised activity which would encourage more people on to the Hill at night, and by implication a better feeling of safety, should be explored.
- 3.06 All present agreed that preventing access to the Hill at night would be impossible to enforce and may result in causing more problems than it attempts to solve.
- 3.06.1 Richard Emerson suggested that whilst it may be impractical to make the whole area of Calton Hill inaccessible at night, certain areas could be made secure i.e. if railings were reinstated to Royal Terrace and London Road, access to Royal Terrace Gardens could be controlled.
- 3.07 The possibility of better lighting of paths and entrances was discussed. Annette Patterson noted that there was a potential conflict between having light on the Hill and the use of the Observatory. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that there were ways of using lighting in an effective but discrete manner.
- 4.00 INFORMATION:
- 4.01 Jack Munro advised that the future image and name of the Calton Hill, i.e. park, view point, historic site, contemplation site etc., was worthy of careful thought and discussion.
- 4.01.1 Stephen Hajduki suggested that the qualitative differences between Calton Hill and Princes Street Gardens, especially with the imminent Galleries Project, should be emphasised.
- 4.02 Jack Munro advised Lothian & Borders Tourist Board were actively supporting moves towards a pedestrian strategy for Edinburgh and are presently involved in the preparation of proposals to co-ordinate all parties with major tourist interests to ensure effort and budgets are maximised.
- 4.02.1 Jack Munro noted that general tourist, especially pedestrian, signage in the City would be part of the proposed pedestrian strategy.
- 4.03 Jack Munro advised that at present the Castle was a first stop for visitors and Lothian & Borders Tourist Board were anxious to spread the focus of tourist activity onto other equally worthy attractions.

- 4.04 The possibility of a visitor centre for Calton Hill was discussed.
- 4.04.1 All agreed that the visitor centre need not be located at the top of the Hill, and that one at the foot of the Hill allied to visitor parking, possibly Greenside Place, would be equally successful.
- 4.04.2 Mark Collard suggested that the existing structures on the Hill, i.e. the City Dome and Observatory House, could be used for visitor facilities.
- 4.04.3 Stephen Hajduki noted that the Planning Department would not object in principal to the proposal of new visitor facilities provided a sensitive and sympathetic approach was adopted.
- 4.05 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that, in previous discussions, a suggestion had been made that a centre for Playfair might be appropriate.
- 4.06 James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested that information plaques on the Hill should not be too detailed but serve as reminders for the information available about the Hill in a visitor centre.
- 4.07 Jack Munro advised that Lothian & Borders Tourist Board has no role in product development or management but has an active role in visitor information.
- 5.00 RESPONSIBILITIES:
- 5.01 Derek Janes gave a brief description of the responsibilities for maintenance as follows:
- 5.01.1 Calton Hill:  
The grounds are maintained by the Parks Department under direction of Jim McKay, CEC, and are funded from the Recreation Budget. The Heritage and Arts Division is responsible for the maintenance of the majority of buildings and monuments on the Hill.
- 5.01.2 Observatory:  
The buildings and the enclosure are owned by the City and leased on a 3 year term to the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, who in turn sub-let the City Dome to Jamie Shepherd. Recent maintenance of the grounds within the enclosure has been suspended at Jamie Shepherd's request, but in future, will be carried out by the Parks Department.
- 5.01.3 Graveyards:  
Environmental Health is responsible for their maintenance.
- 5.01.4 Royal High School:  
The grounds and buildings are maintained by the City.
- 5.01.5 Regent Gardens:  
Maintenance is carried out by the Parks Department.

- 5.01.6 Lothian & Borders Police Aerial:  
Both the aerial and associated concrete shed are on a long term lease to Lothian & Borders Police.
- 5.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith asked if a paper on the management and funding of the maintenance of the Hill could be prepared. Annette Patterson agreed to liaise with Jim McKay, CEC.
- 5.03 Deirdre Wynn advised that the departmental responsibilities for Calton Hill are under review as a result of the change in focus from Millennium Project to Heritage Site. Deirdre Wynn agreed to keep the Key Interest Group advised on the position.
- 5.04 Mark Collard suggested that some direction, in principle, on an appropriate future management structure should be made as part of the recommendations in the Conservation Plan.
- 6.00 MAINTENANCE:
- 6.01 Peter McGowan noted that the overall landscape strategy the landscape areas of the Hill will be graded from high to low maintenance to suite the different demands of access and presentation.
- 6.01.1 Peter McGowan advised the order of costs will include the initial landscape works required and the subsequent maintenance costs.
- 6.01.2 Peter McGowan confirmed that an order of cost for the landscape management could be prepared as part of the recommendations for the landscape improvements in the Conservation Plan.
- 6.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that the maintenance required for the existing buildings and monuments on the Hill will form part of the recommendations of the Conservation Plan.
- 6.02.1 Richard Emerson noted that the proposed use of the buildings may dictate the extent of maintenance works required.
- 7.00 RESOURCES:
- 7.01 Derek Janes advised that the maintenance of the grounds is at present largely covered by the general Parks Department budget and there is now the opportunity to treat Calton Hill as a specific project with appropriate funding for a focused management policy.
- 7.02 Deirdre Wynn noted that ongoing maintenance is funded from the general Recreation Budget, there is no capital investment. Deirdre Wynn agreed to source information on the overall maintenance budget for Calton Hill.
- 7.03 Deirdre Wynn suggested there may be Urban Parks Programme funding. Peter McGowan advised finance of the Urban Parks Programme although not yet removed, is declining and has a limited time scale to run.

- 7.04 Deirdre Wynn also noted Heritage Lottery funding is available.
- 7.05 Richard Emerson advised that 25% Historic Scotland Grant Aid is likely to be available for most of the structures on the Hill, the majority of which are Category A listed.
- 8.00 FUTURE USE OF ADJACENT SITES:
- 8.01 Richard Emerson advised that St Andrew's House is to be used by the Government as accommodation for administration associated with the Scottish Parliament. The tenders for the refurbishment works were being prepared and due to be issued shortly.
- 8.02 Stephen Hajduki advised that the General post Office, Waterloo Place, is presently owned by a developer who is looking at options for its future. Stephen Hajduki noted that the City had any abandoned interest in the property.
- 8.03 Deirdre Wynn advised that the lease of property on Waterloo Place by the City of Edinburgh Council was short term with the development of a new headquarters building imminent.
- 8.04 Stephen Hajduki advised that New St Andrew's House including the St James Centre has been sold to a developer.
- 8.05 Deirdre Wynn stated that she was not aware of at any firm proposals for the future of the Royal High School. Deirdre Wynn agreed to try to obtain further information on its future from the Chief Executive, CEC.
- 8.05.1 Mark Hopton suggested the possibility of the use of the site as a Interpretation Centre for Calton Hill and/or as a centre for the Scottish Enlightenment.
- 8.05.2 Richard Emerson advised that the use of the buildings as a visitor centre was likely to be only a short term solution as its long term future was almost certainly to be as support facilities for St Andrew's House.
- 8.05.3 Stephen Hajduki noted the internal layout of the Royal High School would restrict the possibilities for future use. Stephen Hajduki confirmed Listed Building Consent will be required for any works to the buildings.
- 8.06 The future of the bridge link from St James Centre to Calton Hill was discussed. Stephen Hajduki confirmed that it was erected with Temporary Planning permission and he would ascertain if there was any time limit on the permission granted. Stephen Hajduki advised that the Planning Department would support proposals for the removal of the bridge and provision of a street level crossing which would encourage pedestrians down to ground level.

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Architects

9.00 APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS:

9.01 Richard Emerson asked if contact had been made with the Royal Fine Art Commission. Deirdre Wynn confirmed that the Royal Fine Art Commission received copies of all Advisory Group Meeting minutes. It was agreed that a formal presentation of recommendations should only be made once the Conservation Plan was complete and firm proposals were prepared.

9.02 Deirdre Wynn asked if any public consultation was appropriate at this stage. It was agreed that public consultation should only be undertaken when the Conservation Plan was complete and firm proposals had been prepared.

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10 December 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**Jim McKay**  
*Department of Recreation, CEC*

8 December 1998

Notes of meeting with Jim McKay, held at 16 Dublin Street on Tuesday 8 December 1998 at 2.00pm.

Present:

Jim McKay	CEC, Department of Recreation, Parks Department
James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Jane Yellowlees	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects

James Dunbar-Nasmith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to focus discussion on the management and maintenance of Calton Hill to enable knowledge to be shared which will inform the Conservation Plan.

The following points were noted:

Item	Description
1.00	GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN ISSUES
1.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that four Key Interest Group Meetings had been held focusing on the issues of Landscape, Archaeology, Residents and Management. A copy of the meeting schedule was passed to Jim McKay. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that a copy of the notes of all the Key Interest Group Meetings will be included in the Conservation Plan.
1.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith issued a copy of the proposed Conservation Plan Structure to Jim McKay.
2.00	LANDSCAPE
2.01	Jim McKay noted that soil depths vary on the Hill. There are some pockets of soil which are identified in the Cairns Study. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that a copy of Bill Cairns' study of Calton Hill had been sourced from Annette Patterson, CEC.
2.02	Jim McKay stated that he was not aware of any evidence of World War II trenches being found on the hill.
2.03	Jim McKay advised that the bonfire site adjacent to the trig point is used on an annual basis for the Beltane Festival. Bonfires have also been lit for significant events, i.e. the 50th anniversaries of VE and VJ days.
2.04	The use of the Hill as a significant view point to the City was discussed. Jim McKay noted that the Hill is used as a prime view point during the Festival Fireworks. Only disabled cars are allowed access and parking on the Hill top on fireworks night. No tour buses are allowed.
2.05	Jim McKay noted that elm trees are planted on the positions of the unbuilt columns to the National Monument.

- 2.06 Jim McKay suggested that the area within the Observatory enclosure should be designed as a more formal garden with a possible theme, i.e. time/astronomy. The design could still be low maintenance.
- 2.07 Jim McKay confirmed that, at present, the areas of the Hill are graded from natural areas of little or no maintenance, to areas of more intensive maintenance such as close mowing to path edges.
- 2.08 Jim McKay confirmed the recent tree planting, mainly on the North side of the Hill, was carried out by the Parks Department.
- 3.00 ACCESS
- 3.01 Jim McKay had no objections to the removal of visitor traffic and parking from the Hill top.
- 3.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested that there was a possibility of using Greenside Place for visitor parking, including tour buses. New access paths and a bridge link would be required. Jim McKay welcomed the idea of parking in Greenside Place and had no objection, in principle, to new access paths and a bridge link provided their design was sensitively handled.
- 3.03 Jim McKay noted that the steepness of the Hill was a real deterrent to visitors to the Hill top. It was agreed that previous proposals for escalators and funiculars were not appropriate.
- 3.04 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that the bus for disabled operated at the Castle was a possible model for Calton Hill.
- 3.05 Jim McKay suggested that the lighting of pathways should be considered.
- 3.06 Jim McKay noted that some of the paths up to the Hill top had been widened in the early 1800's to allow teams of horses to pull stones for the National Monument.
- 4.00 INFORMATION
- 4.01 Jim McKay agreed that there was a need for visitor facilities on the Hill, including a visitor centre which could be located either in one of the existing structures on the Hill or in a new structure at the foot of the Hill.
- 4.02 Jim McKay confirmed that there were no pamphlets for Calton Hill and suggested that there were some USA examples which may be useful models for a future design. It was agreed that the pamphlets should not only cover the detail of the Hill but also include the immediate context.
- 4.03 Jim McKay stressed that in his view the image of Calton Hill in the future should be not as a park but as a natural environment within the City.

5.00 SECURITY

5.01 Jim McKay confirmed that, with the agreement of the Police, the Hill gates are no longer locked at night. Due to the number of entrances and possible access points onto the Hill it is impossible to make the Hill secure. Any new padlocks fitted on gates are immediately broken.

5.02 Jim McKay confirmed that meetings are held periodically between the Parks Department and the Police to discuss any problems including safety and security issues.

5.03 Jim McKay suggested that encouraging more people onto the Hill may result in less social problems and a better feeling of safety for the users.

6.00 RESPONSIBILITIES

Jim McKay briefly described the responsibilities for the Calton Hill as follows:

6.01 Calton Hill generally:

6.01.1 The maintenance of the grounds is carried out by the Parks Department.

6.01.2 Heritage and Arts are responsible for the maintenance of all the monuments and buildings on the Hill.

6.02 Observatory:

6.02.1 The buildings are leased on short term basis to the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, who in turn sub-let the City Dome to Jamie Shepherd. The maintenance of the grounds within the enclosure, stopped at Jamie Shepherd's request, will be carried out by the Parks Department in future.

6.02.2 Burial Grounds:

Environmental Health is responsible for the maintenance of both the Old Calton and New Calton Burial Grounds. The maintenance of the grounds is carried out by the Parks Department.

7.00 RESOURCES

7.01 Jim McKay briefly gave information on general resources as follows:

7.01.1 Calton Hill maintenance is included in the overall Parks Department maintenance budget, which is funded from the Recreation Department budget. Approximately £10,500 to £11,000 was allocated to Calton Hill maintenance (mainly grass cutting) this year.

7.01.2 Additional funding for repairs and works to paths on Calton Hill has recently been provided by Scottish National Heritage. Some work has already been carried out. The scope and programme of further works is to be agreed with Scottish Natural Heritage.

7.01.3 There is a full time Parks Ranger whose job description is gradually changing to a more interpretative role.

- 7.01.4 There is a full time Curator at Nelson Monument. Derek Janes, CEC, will have information on revenue generated from ticket sales.
- 7.01.5 There are also bus parking attendants employed to collect fees for access to the Hill top and manage bus access; normally two in the summer and one in the winter. A fee of £5.00 is charged per bus, which generates a revenue of between £9,000 and £10,000 per year. Derek Janes, CEC, will have detailed information on actual bus numbers and revenue generated.
- 8.00 FUTURE USE OF ADJACENT SITES
- 8.01 Jim McKay suggested that the Royal High School should retain a civic or cultural use. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted it was likely to be used in the future as support to St Andrew's House.  
James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that previous discussions had confirmed that St Andrew's House will be used by the Government as support accommodation for the Scottish parliament.
- 8.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that New St Andrew's House, which includes the St James Centre, has been sold to a developer. Jim McKay agreed that the St James Centre bridge should be removed if possible and welcomed the proposal that pedestrians should cross at street level and access the Hill from there.
- 8.03 Jim McKay advised that there was a proposal for an art work by Paul Hogarth in Regent Road Park. The design is for a stone circle representing the 42 regions.
- 8.04 Jim McKay suggested that there was the potential to improve the access and connections between Calton Hill and Holyrood Park and the new Scottish Parliament. There are existing routes, i.e. the path to the east of the Burns Monument which overlooks New Calton Burial Ground.
- 9.00 APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS
- 9.01 Jim McKay asked if regular users of the Hill would be consulted as part of the study. James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that Dr Byrom, a member of the Key User Group, was conducting a survey of Hill visitors and had agreed to make his initial findings available for the Conservation Plan.
- 9.02 Jim McKay suggested that George Bell, Morton Hall Crematorium, would be a useful contact for information on the Calton Hill Burial grounds, including the Jewish cemetery.
- 9.03 James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that a meeting would be held with the Police shortly. Jim McKay noted Jim Taylor, Police Superintendent, Gayfield Square, has been involved in consultation with the Parks Department, CEC, and may be a useful contact.
- 9.04 Jim McKay suggested that Connie Byrom's thesis on the New Town Gardens may be useful for the landscape study of the Hill.
- 9.05 Jim McKay asked if Councillor Kerr had been contacted. James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that he was invited to Advisory Group Meetings but, as yet, had not managed to attend.

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- 9.06 Jim McKay advised that Ian Nimmo, ex Editor of The Evening News, had been involved with Jim McKay with the preparation of a book entitled 'Edinburgh Green Heritage' which includes a section on Calton Hill.
- 9.07 Jim McKay suggested Bill Cairns who prepared the survey of the Ecology of Calton Hill for CEC, may have useful background information on the study.
- 9.08 Jim McKay advised that information sourced and prepared by Krystina Robertson, whilst working for the CEC, may be useful. Annette Patterson would be the best contact to source the information.
- 9.09 Jim McKay suggested Peter Lynn, Architect and previous secretary of the Residents Association may have some useful background information.

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18 December 1998

Workshops & Meetings

**George Bell**  
*Department of Environmental Health, CEC*

15 December 1998

Notes of a telephone conversation between Jane Yellowlees (L&D-N) and George Bell (Department of Environmental Health, CEC) on Tuesday 15 December 1998 at 10.00am.

Jane Yellowlees explained the purpose of the phone call was to source background information on the Calton burial grounds which will help inform the Calton Hill Conservation Plan.

The following points were noted:

1.00 History:

1.01 Both New and Old Calton Burial Grounds have always been owned by the City. New Calton Burial Ground was opened just prior to the completion of Waterloo Place when Old Calton Burial Ground was split in two by Regent Bridge.

1.02 The Department of Environmental Health has fact sheets on both the New and Old Calton Burial Grounds which includes their history. References to the sources of information used in the preparation of the fact sheets are included. George Bell will forward a copy of the fact sheets to L&D-N.

1.02.1 Stephen Dixon, Planning Department, CEC, helped prepare the fact sheets and may be a useful contact for further information.

2.00 Burials:

2.01 Both Old and New Calton Burial Grounds are owned by the City. To be buried in the grounds individuals or families must own the Title Deeds to a particular plot giving them "Rights of Burial". Burials can still be made in either Old and New Calton Burial Grounds providing the individuals or families have existing Title Deeds. Applications for all burials are made to the Department of Environmental Health, CEC. Refusal for a burial in an existing plot to which Title is owned will only be made if there is insufficient room due to previous burials. New Titles are no longer granted for plots in either the New or Old Calton Burial Grounds.

2.02 The Department of Environmental Health has plans of both the Old and New Calton Burial Grounds showing all the plots which could be made available for copying by L&D-N if required.

3.00 Access:

3.01 The Department of Environmental Health welcomes public access to the burial grounds. There are no proposals to restrict access in the near future.

3.02 The Department of Environmental Health does not provide any security. The grounds are open 24 hours a day all the year round. The only exception to this policy of continued public access would be at the request of the Police when, for certain major City events such as the New Year's Eve Festival, they are locked.

- 3.03 There is an established route from Calton Hill to Holyrood Park through New Calton Hill Burial Ground however, due to safety reasons with respect to traffic, the gate at the bottom is now always locked. If the problem of safe access onto Calton Road could be solved this has the potential of being a popular tourist route which would also encourage more visitors to the grounds.
- 3.04 The Calton burial grounds have always been and are still used by people for sleeping in.
- 3.05 One of the less desirable aspects of allowing unlimited access to the Calton burial grounds is that they are used for activities associated with drugs and gay prostitution.
- 4.00 Responsibilities:
- 4.01 The Department of Environmental Health is responsible for the supervision and management of all burial grounds in the City, including both the Old and New Calton Burial Grounds. The general maintenance budget which covers all the burial grounds in the City is funded from the Recreation budget. This year the total maintenance budget allocated was £50,000. There is a proposal at present, which may or not be accepted, to cut next year's budget to around £10,000.
- 4.02 The Department of Environmental Health has no responsibility for the Jewish cemetery on Calton Hill.
- 5.00 Maintenance:
- 5.01 Maintenance of the Calton Hill burial grounds is carried out by the Parks Department, CEC, under the supervision of the Department of Environmental Health.
- 5.02 Most of the gates and grilles missing from graves were removed as part of the war effort during the Second World War.
- 5.03 No major restoration works have been carried out in the burial grounds within the last three to four years. Prior to that some work to the paths and stabilisation work to the south retaining wall was carried out in New Calton Burial Ground.
- 5.04 There has never been any real problems of damage to the graves occurring as a result of vandalism.

Workshops & Meetings

**Architectural Key Interest Group**

23 December 1998

Notes of an Architectural Key Interest Meeting held at 16 Dublin Street on Wednesday 23 December 1998, at 9.30am.

Present:

Deborah Howard	Architectural Historian
Angus Mitchell	Local Resident, Author and Secretary of the Greyfriars Church Yard Trust
Ann Mitchell	Local Resident and Author
James Dunbar-Nasmith	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Mark Hopton	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects
Jane Yellowlees	Law & Dunbar-Nasmith, Architects

James Dunbar-Nasmith explained that the purpose of the meeting was to focus discussion on the architectural issues of Calton Hill including the Graveyards to enable knowledge to be shared which will inform the Conservation Plan.

Item	Description
1.00	GENERAL CONSERVATION PLAN ISSUES:
1.01	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that, to date, four Key Interest Group Meetings had been held focusing on the issues of Landscape, Archaeology, Residents and Management. A copy of the meeting schedule was passed to all present. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that a copy of the notes of all Key Interest Group Meetings will be included in the Conservation Plan.
1.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith issued a copy of the proposed Conservation Plan Structure to all present.
2.00	LANDSCAPE:
2.01	The image of the Hill was discussed. Deborah Howard referred to Stark's 19th century vision for Calton Hill and suggested that it was important that the wilderness aspect of the Hill should be retained.
2.01.1	James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that the importance of the image of the Hill as a place for contemplation had been stressed in previous workshops. All agreed that this image of the Hill should be retained and enhanced. Deborah Howard noted that the provision of seats within the landscape was important as part of the contemplative aspect.
2.02	James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested that the landscape of the Observatory enclosure merited a different approach to the rest of the Hill. All present agreed that a more formal approach within the enclosure would be appropriate.
2.03	Angus Mitchell stated that there was a carpet of daffodils in the south-west corner of the site. Angus Mitchell advised that there appeared to be no evidence that the daffodils had been planted or were managed but they still provided an attractive feature in the spring.

- 2.04 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that there was a significant ground cover of ivy in the woodland areas which was undesirable and detrimental to the Hill landscape.
- 2.05 Angus Mitchell advised that there is a real problem with wind borne litter which gets caught in the trees and ground cover and suggested that this problem should be considered within the Conservation Plan.
- 2.06 The area of landscape around the National Monument was discussed. All agreed that the area to the east, immediately behind the monument, was unattractive and deserved attention.
- 2.06.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested that the missing elm trees on the positions of un-built columns to the monument might be reinstated.
- 3.00 VIEWS AND VISTAS:
- 3.01 The issue of the importance of views to and from the Hill was discussed. Angus Mitchell suggested that it was important in the assessment and analysis of the views from the Hill to give equal consideration to those which, at present, are less desirable, i.e., the views to Greenside Place and St James' Centre.
- 4.00 FORREST'S SCULPTURE:
- 4.01 Angus Mitchell advised that both he and Ann Mitchell had various references and copies of documents relating to Forrest's sculptures and passed some copies of items of interest to James Dunbar-Nasmith.
- 4.02 Angus Mitchell suggested that it might be appropriate to return one of Forrest's sculptures to the Hill.
- 5.00 BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS:
- 5.01 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that a large amount of documentary research had already been carried out on the monuments and buildings on the Hill by the Project Team.
- 5.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith raised the issue of the importance of the buildings and monuments on Calton Hill in both National and European contexts. Deborah Howard agreed to prepare a paper for the Conservation Plan.
- 5.03 Deborah Howard noted that in the designs of the buildings and monuments there were important allusions to other building typologies i.e., the use of the villa for Playfair's Observatory. Deborah Howard advised the use of the villa typology for an observatory was not unique to Calton Hill or Scotland.
- 5.03.1 Deborah Howard also noted the importance of the Royal High School as a Neo-Greek prototype and as an early enlightenment representative.
- 5.03.2 James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that the design of Nelson's Monument is thought to have been based on a telescope. Deborah Howard advised that the plan of the sailor's rooms at the base also had a specific typology of some interest.

- 5.04 Angus Mitchell stated that, of all the buildings and monuments on the Hill, the Nelson Monument was sited on the highest point of the Hill.
- 5.05 Mark Hopton noted the scientific importance of the site.
- 5.06 The lighting of monuments was raised by Deborah Howard. Mark Hopton advised that the Observatory, National Monument and Nelson's Monument were all illuminated at night to dramatic effect.
- 6.00 LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL:
- 6.01 Ann Mitchell passed some background information on the Lancasterian School to James Dunbar-Nasmith and noted there was also some information in her book "No More Corncrakes", which may be useful.
- 6.02 James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that although there are references to the existence of a Lancasterian School on Calton Hill the project Team had, to date, been unable to source information on the actual site of the school. Angus & Ann Mitchell confirmed that they had also been unable to confirm its location.
- 7.00 GRAVEYARDS:
- 7.01 Angus Mitchell advised that useful sources for information on the history of the Calton graveyards are:
- "Ruins and Remains."
  - Anderson, W.P., "Silences that Speak."
  - Turnbull, M.T.R.B., "The Edinburgh Graveyards Guide."
- 7.02 Angus Mitchell described the background to the Greyfriars Graveyard Trust and suggested that a similar Trust could be set up for the Calton graveyards.
- 7.02.1 Angus Mitchell advised that the Greyfriars Trust had undertaken the responsibility to compile a full inventory of the monuments, prepare a full conservation report and publish a small information pamphlet for the public. Angus Mitchell noted that the pamphlet had been prepared and had proved very popular.
- 7.02.2 Angus Mitchell stated that sourcing funding for the payment for the conservation of the monuments and vaults had proved difficult at Greyfriars, particularly as only approximately 10% of families who own deeds to the plots have been traced.
- 7.03 Deborah Howard stressed the importance of ensuring that all the monuments, gravestones and vaults in the Calton graveyards are now properly recorded.
- 7.04 Deborah Howard stated that, in her view, the present condition of the gravestones and monuments in the Calton graveyards should remain as they are. James Dunbar-Nasmith suggested that some essential conservation of the monuments was necessary including stabilisation and essential repair.
- 7.05 Deborah Howard noted that the construction of Waterloo Place through Old Calton Graveyard represented a brutal act of town planning.

- 7.06 Angus Mitchell stated that the Scottish Genealogy Society Library is at 15 Victoria Street.
- 7.07 Angus Mitchell suggested that if the bottom gate to New Calton Graveyard was opened for public access, there was a possibility of establishing a natural short cut through the graveyard from Holyrood Park, Holyrood Palace and the new Parliament to Calton Hill.
- 8.00 JEWISH CEMETERY:
- 8.01 Angus Mitchell advised that an article which described access to the Jewish Grave by Jamie Shepherd and included photographs of the interior of the vault had been published in the Evening Times. James Dunbar-Nasmith confirmed that a copy had already been sourced.
- 8.02 Angus Mitchell suggested that the term cemetery was perhaps misleading as the site of the vault was purchased for the sole use of a Jewish couple and their descendants.
- 8.03 Angus Mitchell confirmed that, although difficult to find, the entrance of the grave could still be located.
- 8.03.1 Angus Mitchell advised that, the paving slabs on the path adjacent to the north-east corner of the enclosing wall to the Observatory did not mark the entrance to the tomb but, were probably above the top of the inner vault.
- 8.04 Angus Mitchell suggested that the Jewish Grave should be marked and the entrance sealed with a lockable grille or door.
- 9.00 VISITOR FACILITIES:
- 9.01 The issue of the location of visitor facilities on the Hill was discussed. Ann Mitchell felt that a visitor centre would be better at the top of the Hill, perhaps providing a new use of the existing structures i.e. Observatory house of City Dome.
- 9.02 Ann Mitchell suggested that the provision of toilets for visitors allied to a visitor's centre should be carefully considered.
- 9.03 Deborah Howard suggested that information plaques including those for selective view points should be provided for visitors. James Dunbar-Nasmith agreed and stressed that they should be of the highest quality, preferably in bronze.
- 10.00 ACCESS:
- 10.01 Deborah Howard noted that although outwith the site the approach by Waterloo Place was vital to the study.
- 10.02 Ann Mitchell asked if the possibility of the removal the bridge from St James' Centre, which has a considerable impact on the views to and from the Hill was being considered within the study. James Dunbar-Nasmith stated that although the bridge was outwith the site its' future and that the possibility of alternative crossing and access points would be considered within the Conservation Plan.

- 10.03 Ann Mitchell asked if the previous proposals for a funicular access would be considered in the Conservation Plan. Mark Hopton advised that, although the possibility had not been discounted at this stage, alternative means of access which would have less impact on the Hill were being investigated.
- 10.04 Access by vehicles and parking on the hill top was discussed. All agreed that the removal of vehicles access and parking, with the exception of disabled and service access, was desirable.
- 10.04.1 James Dunbar-Nasmith noted that the removal of tour buses from the Hill top was in principle supported by the Lothian Tourist Board.
- 10.05 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that proposals for the development of Greenside Place were being prepared by Allan Murray, Architect. All agreed with James Dunbar-Nasmith's suggestion that the potential for access from parking in Greenside Place should be considered within the Conservation Plan.
- 10.05.1 Deborah Howard suggested that if a new access was proposed from Greenside Place the approach to the hill top should be by gentle, possibly zigzag, paths similar to those at the Acropolis.
- 11.00 SOCIAL:
- 11.01 It was noted by all that, amongst the uses of the Hill there was a strong artistic history, including sculpture (Forrest), photography (Begbie, Ocatavius Hill and Inglis) and the numerous paintings, prints and sketches to and from the Hill.
- 11.01.1 Ann Mitchell noted there was a long history of the use of the Hill for washing and bleaching.
- 11.02 Angus and Ann Mitchell confirmed that they had no information about the erection of the Ukrainian Plaque at the south-west entrance.
- 11.03 James Dunbar-Nasmith advised that a meeting with the Police to discuss the social and security issues of the Hill was to be arranged.
- 11.04 The issue of the use of the Hill at night was discussed. All present agreed that it was not appropriate, if impossible, to prevent access to the Hill at night.
- 11.04.1 Deborah Howard raised concerns that there may be a danger of over lighting the paths. Mark Hopton suggested that any future lighting strategy for the Hill should be sensitive and selective.
- 11.05 Angus Mitchell noted that the slopes down to Greenside Place were still used for cardboard sledging.

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12.00 FUTURE CONTACTS:

12.01 Ann Mitchell suggested John Spencely (Architect) who is a member of the Regent's Garden Committee may be a useful contact.

12.02 Angus Mitchell also suggested that Andrew Anderson, the Minister of Greenside Place Church, would be a useful contact. Angus Mitchell noted that his wife is an archivist and may have some interesting information on the Hill.

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19 January 1999

Workshops & Meetings

**Chief Superintendent Derek Weldon**  
*Lothian & Borders Police*

25 January 1999

Notes of meeting at Gayfield Square Police Station on Monday 25 January 1999 at 3.30pm.

Present:

Chief Superintendent - Derek Weldon      Lothian & Borders Police  
James Dunbar-Nasmith                      L&D-N

- | Item | Description  |
|------|--|
| 1.01 | Chief Superintendent Weldon will be responsible for the Calton Hill until 1st March when he hands over to Superintendent Roger Orr. Chief Inspector Donald Urquhart will be in post from 15 February.  |
| 1.02 | Police keep no separate record of incidents or accidents relating to Calton Hill and this information is not available. There have been some three assaults in the last two or three years.  |
| 1.03 | Police hold regular meetings with the Edinburgh Community Safety Group, a body representing a variety of interests including the gay community.  |
| 1.04 | The aim of these meetings, so far at Calton Hill is concerned, is to ensure that activities on the Hill are acceptable to the general public. Behaviour which is likely to cause offence must be discreet and invisible, in which case it will not be prevented. |
| 1.05 | It is accepted that the Calton Hill provides a suitable location to such activities which would be likely to be less acceptable if forced elsewhere.   |
| 1.06 | Police would like to see vegetation cut back at public paths - such as wall to Regent Terrace Garden - see attached list of recommendations.   |
| 1.07 | Police would not wish to have the Hill brightly lit, but lighting paths with vandal-proof fittings would be helpful.   |
| 1.08 | There would be no objection to more residents on the Hill - such as in the Old Observatory House.  |
| 1.09 | Fewer vehicles would be welcomed. The fact that police landrovers can no longer circle the Hill is not a problem.  |
| 1.10 | The radio masts are probably part of the police communications system. Information could be obtained from the Chief Constable, L&BP, Fettes Avenue.  |

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26 January 1999