

Erosion on Calton Hill including aerial photographs 1996 to 2023

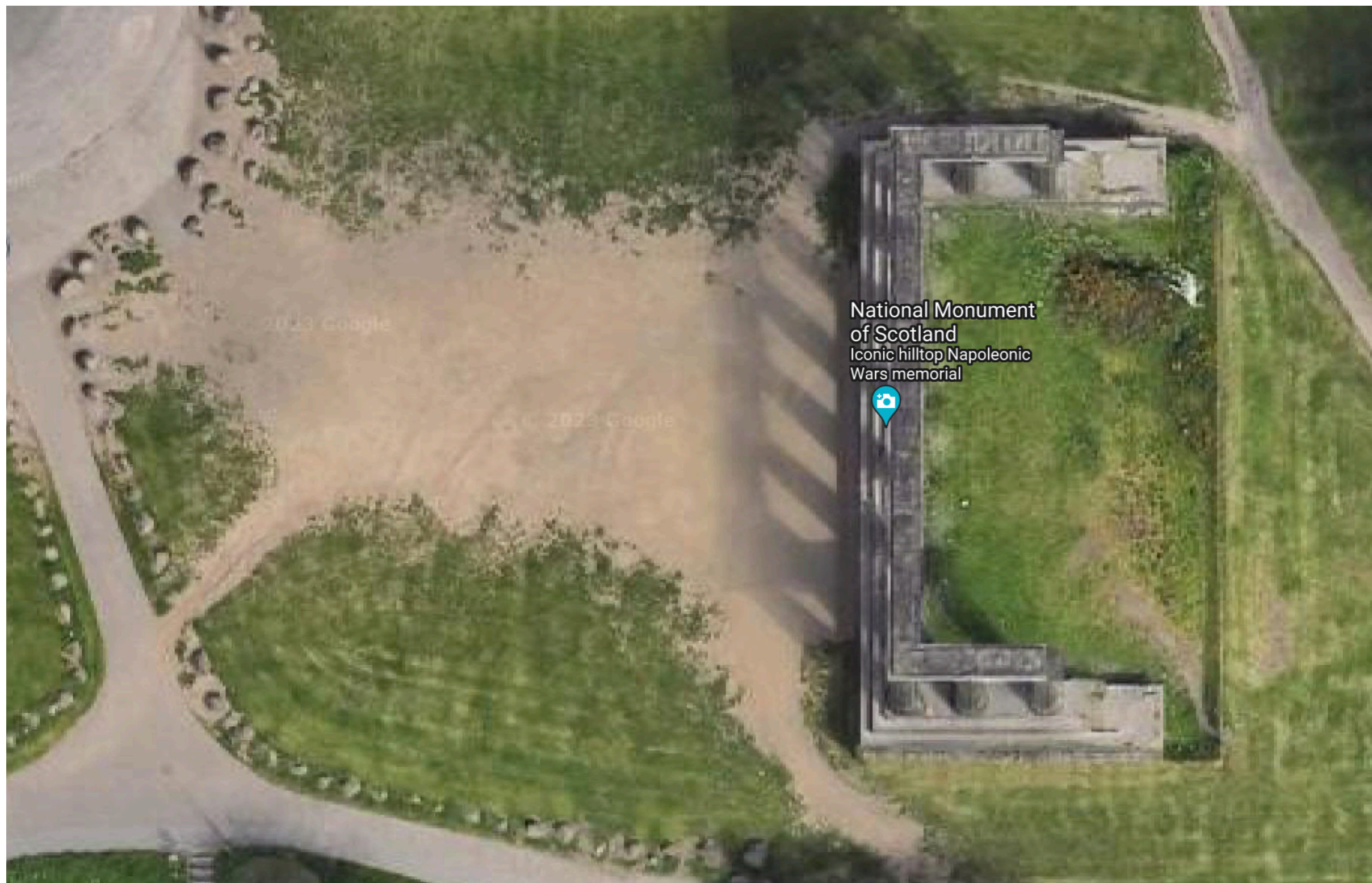


Image:
May 2023



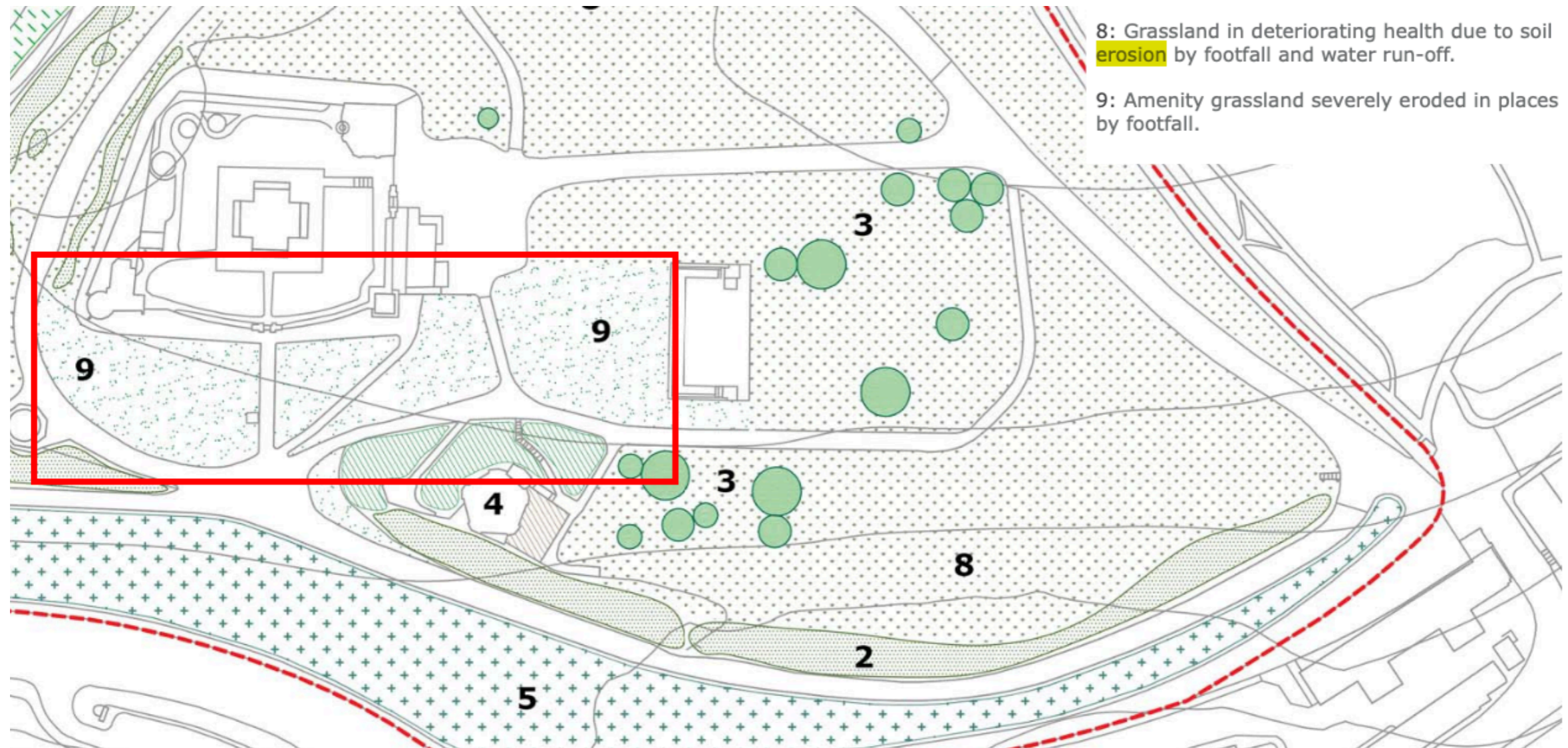
The top of the hill in 2008

Image: Canmore, Historic Environment Scotland

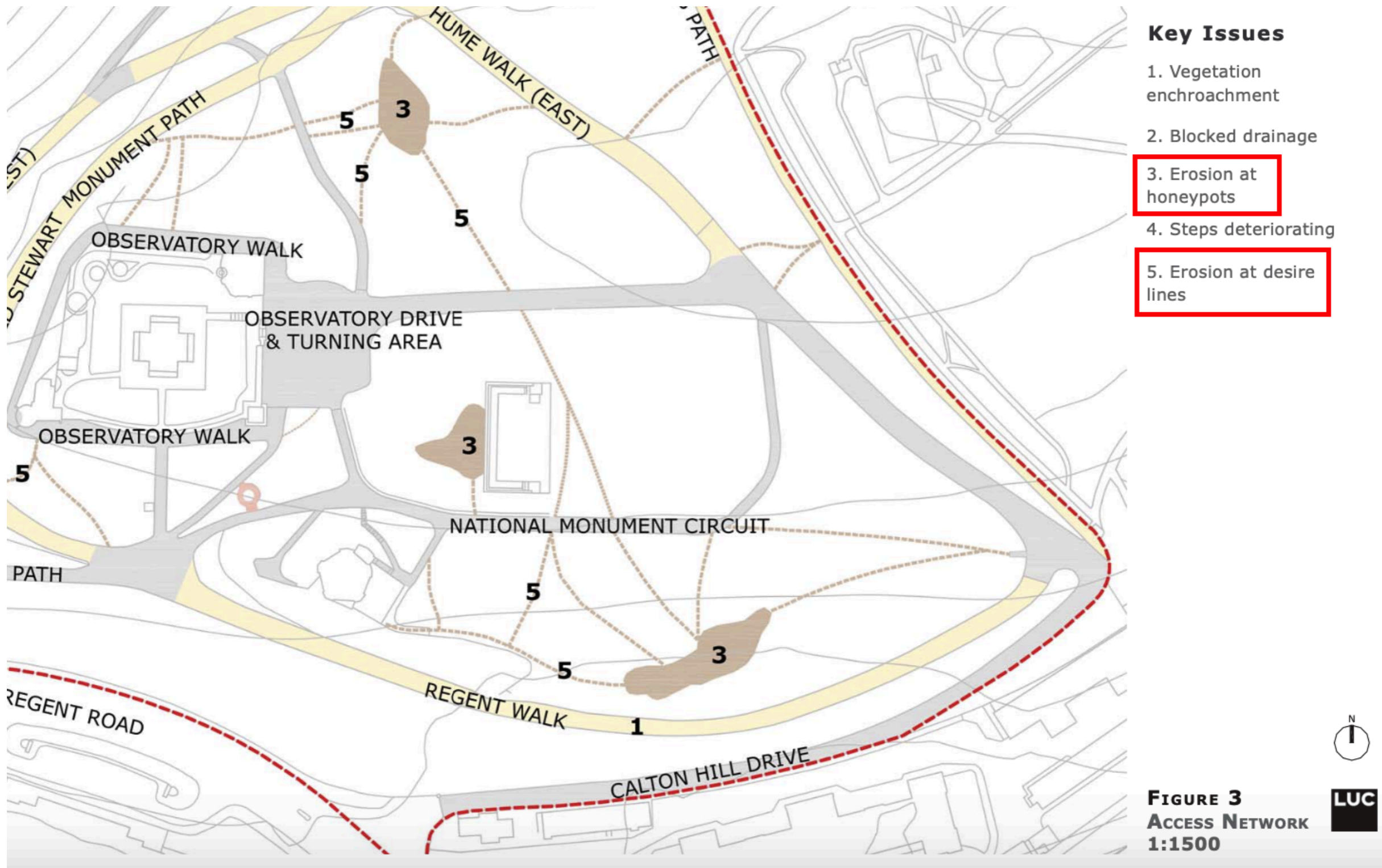


The area in front of the National Monument in 2023. *Image: Google Maps 2023.*

The **Calton Hill Management Plan** (January 2018) noted, “*path erosion and damage resulting from visitor pressure*” (2.51) and “*deteriorating condition due to footfall and water run off*”.



Detail from Figure 6 (p 26), Calton Hill Management Plan, January 2018, showing erosion, particularly in the area south of the City Observatory and west of the National Monument (red box)



Detail from Figure 3 (p 18), Calton Hill Management Plan, January 2018, showing erosion at three major spots, coloured in brown (3), and at desire lines (5). N.B. The eroded area in front of the National Monument is much smaller than at present.

The Calton Hill Management Plan of 2018 was never implemented, no repairs were carried out, as far as we know, and the condition of Calton Hill has deteriorated dramatically during the past six years, as a result of footfall, water runoff and the topsoil being blown away during dry weather.

Probably only Arthur's Seat in Holyrood Park has seen a comparable degree of erosion.

The progressive enlargement of the eroded areas can be seen from aerial photographs from the *City of Edinburgh Council Atlas* (see following slides) and the *Canmore* online database maintained by Historic Environment Scotland.

e.g. 30/1f1 Fowler Terrace



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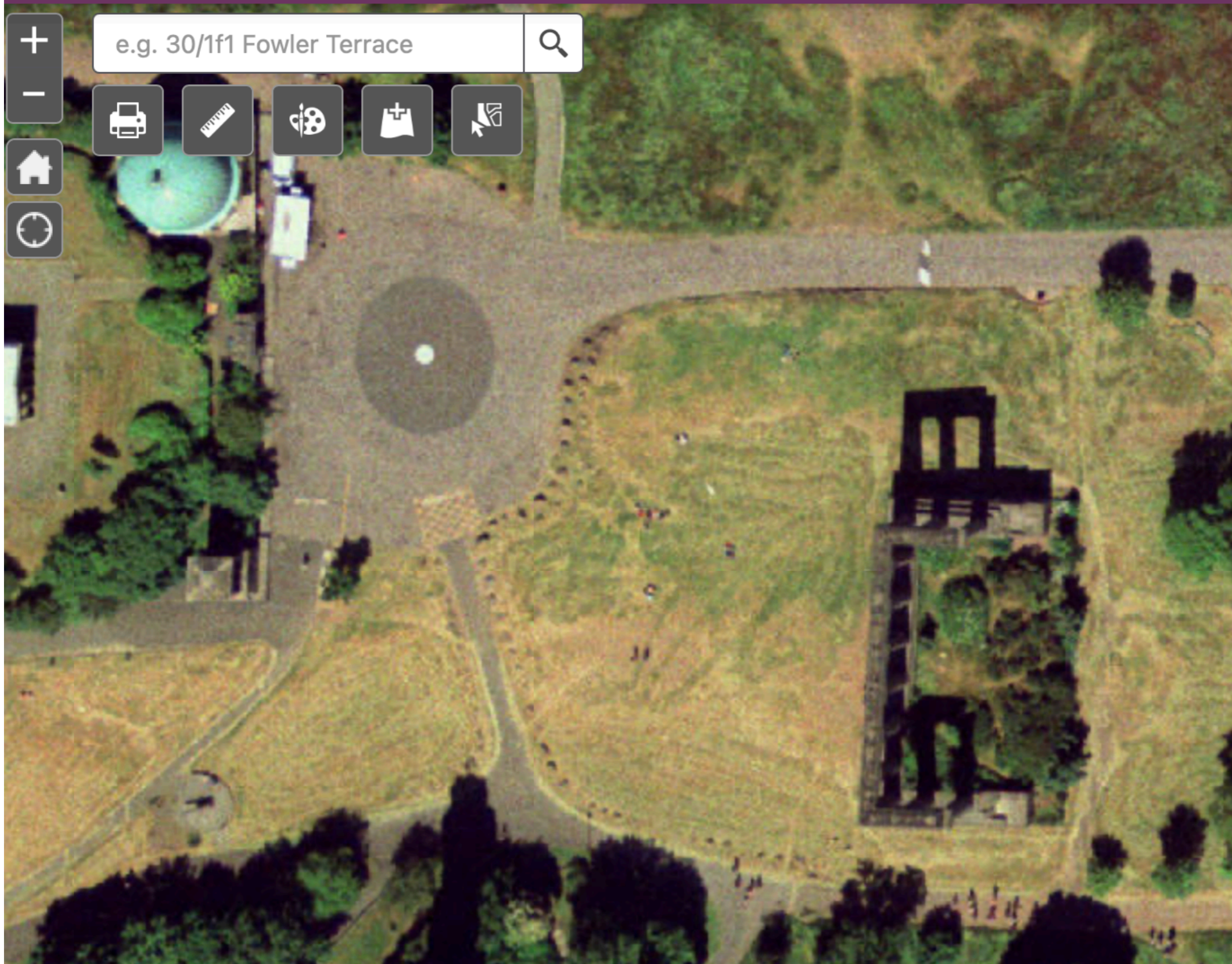


Co

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West side of
the National
Monument,
Calton Hill

1996



2000



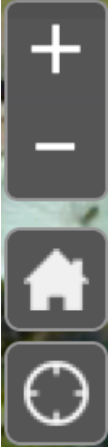
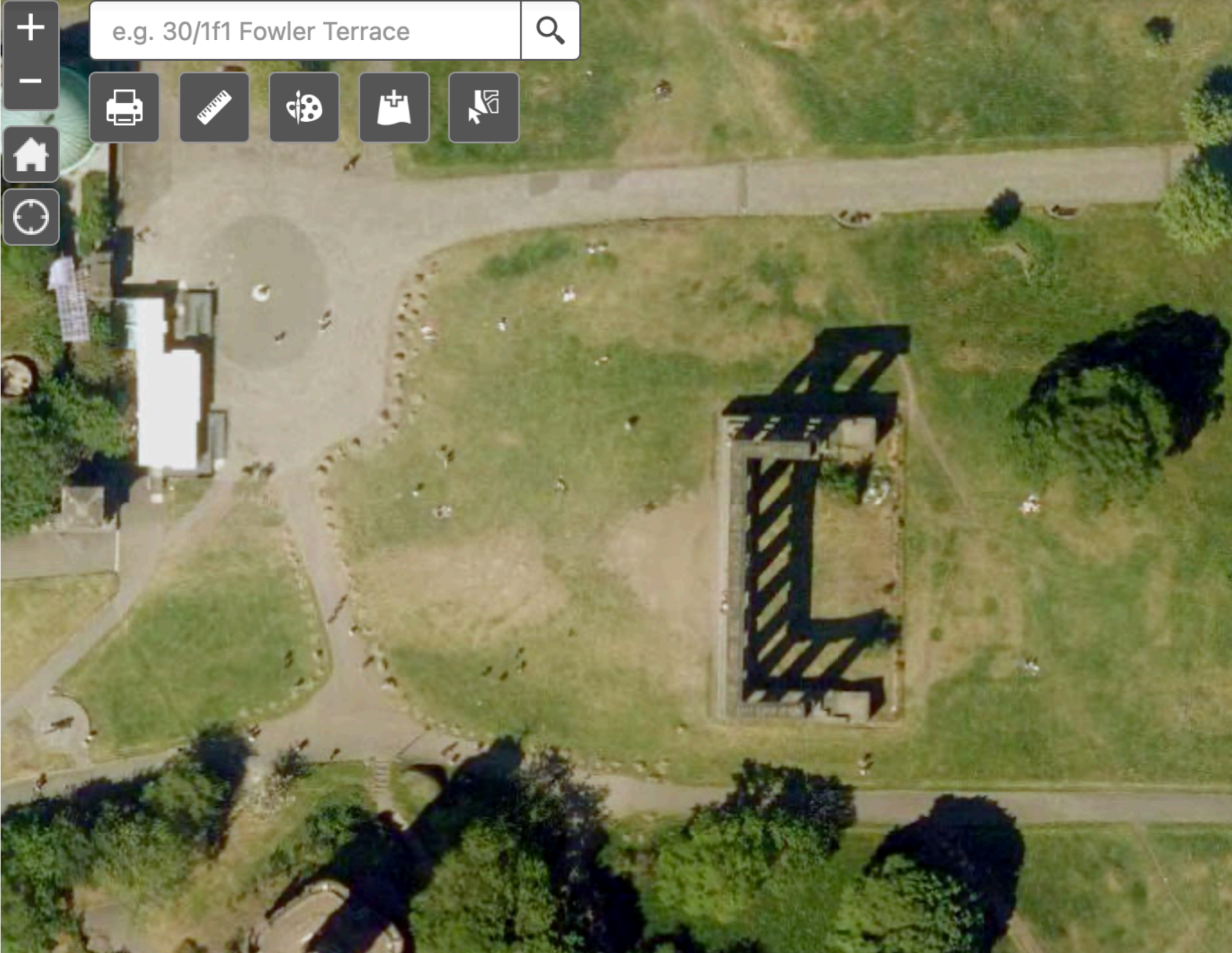
2005



e.g. 30/1f1 Fowler Terrace



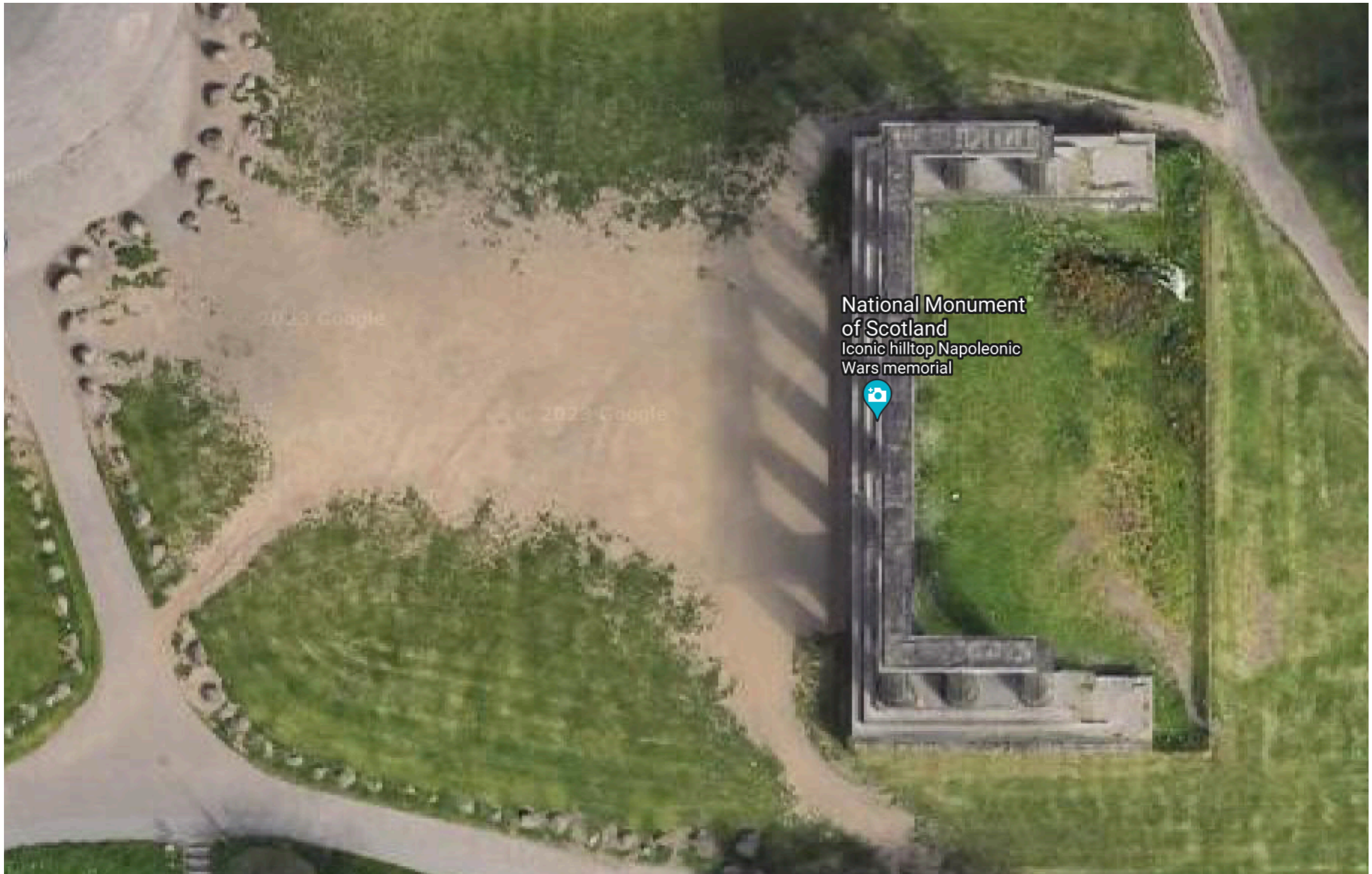
2009



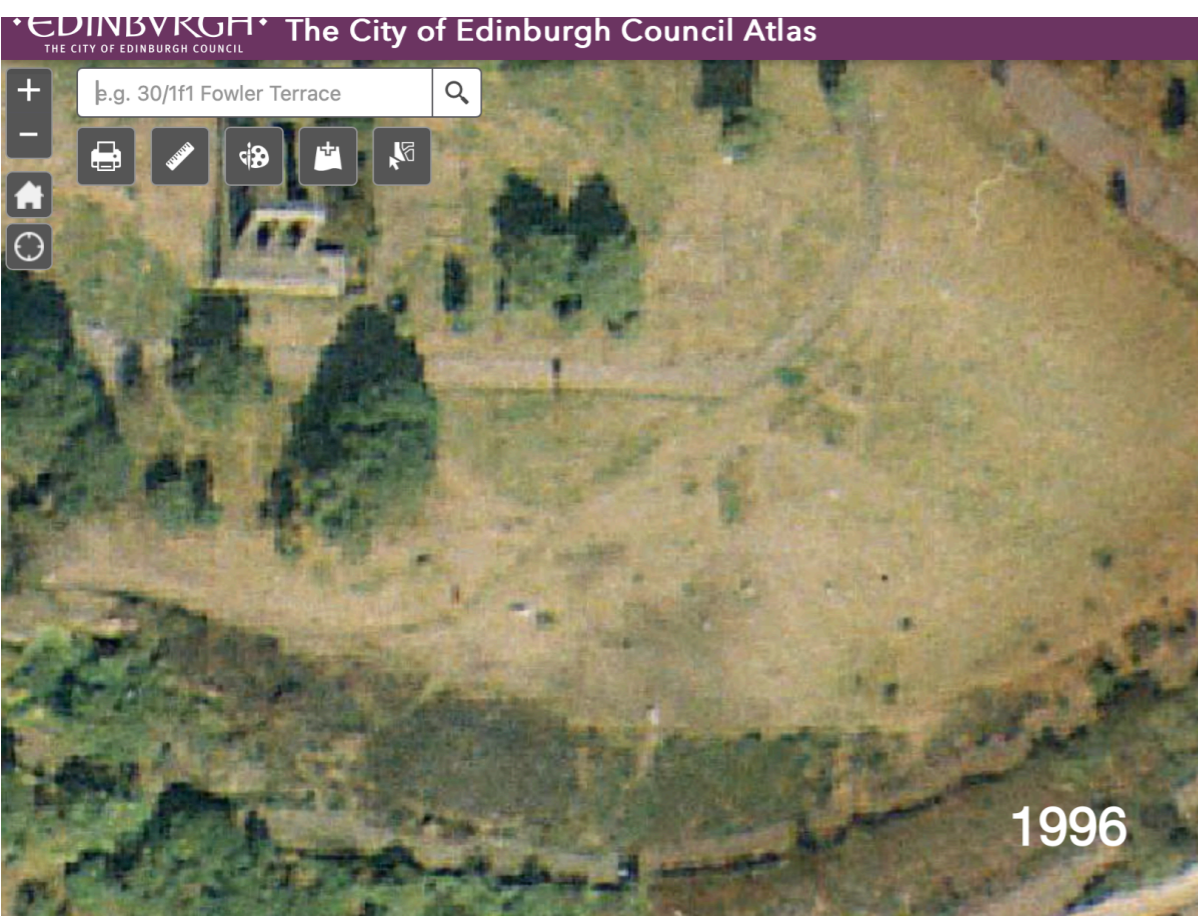
e.g. 30/1f1 Fowler Terrace



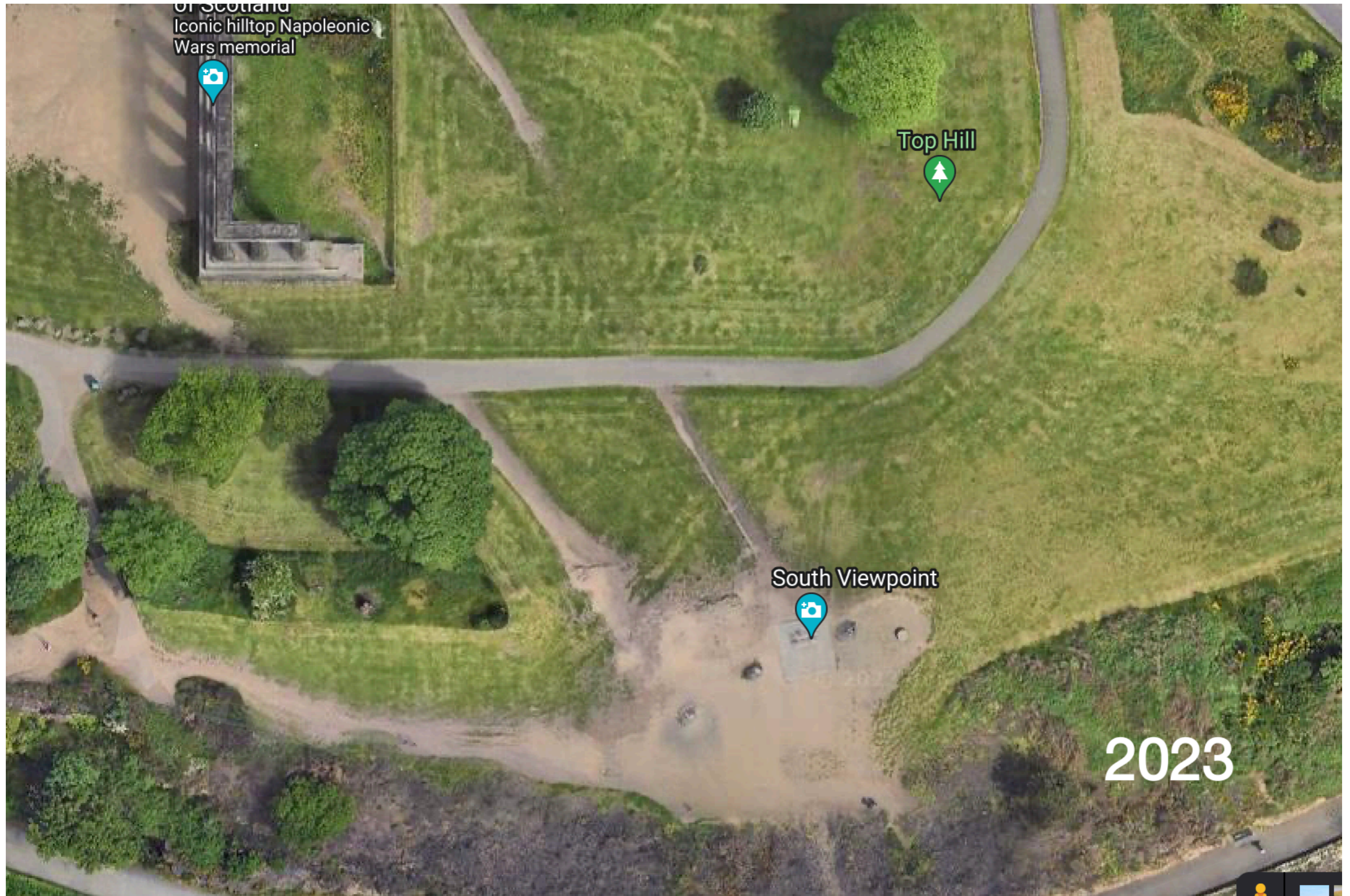
2015



May, 2023



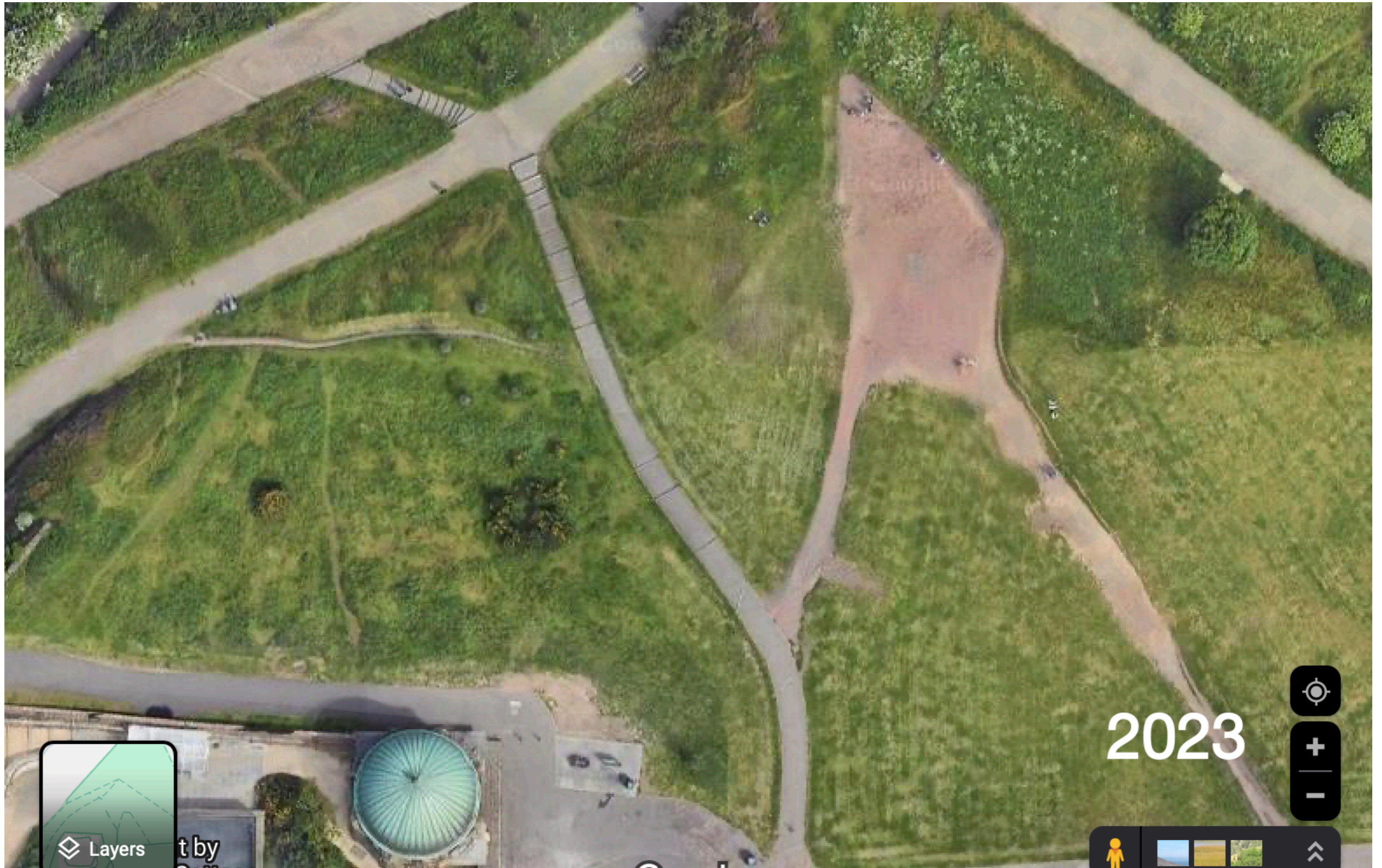
Arthur's
Seat
Viewing
Point



Arthur's Seat viewing point, Google Maps 2023



Trig Point



Trig point, Google Maps 2023

Simon Holledge

@Friends of Calton Hill, 2023