

Quartermile: Highlights

1. **The Quartermile Complex.** Edinburgh's landmark Quartermile development sits within a hub of history, entertainment and culture. Consists of a mixture of new build apartments, apartments converted from nineteenth-century hospital buildings, new-build offices, housing, retail, leisure outlets and public spaces.
2. **The Edinburgh Futures Institute.** The University of Edinburgh is refurbishing and transforming the iconic, category-A listed Old Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh building. The new Futures Institute's courses will focus on global and local challenges, linked to cutting-edge research and to the big future issues facing our planet and societies.
3. **Simpson's Loan.** The Quartermile development named its main residential street, Simpson Loan, in honour of Sir James Young Simpson. He was a Scottish obstetrician and a significant figure in the history of medicine, being the first physician to demonstrate the benefits of anaesthesia to childbirth.
A unity of style, along the Loan, is created by the regular alternation of new glass curtain-walled buildings regularly inserted between the old stone-built Victorian hospital blocks.
4. **The Residence Inn.** Originally planned as a much taller build. However, development plans led to a smaller hotel. A welcome change - it had been mooted that the impact of the original development could cause Edinburgh to lose its World Heritage Site status.
5. **Lister Square.** The public square at the heart of the complex is named after Joseph Lister, the "father" of modern surgery. Lister's great works led to a reduction in post-operative infections and made surgery much safer for patients all around the world.
6. **Nurses Home.** The handsome Nurses Home of 1890 was originally intended to be saved, but the developers were given permission to demolish it. A contentious decision. One of the old 2-storey corner pavilions with red 'pressed' brick, yellow ashlar dressings and decorative banding survives.
7. **Quartermile 1 (Q1).** - the first office building at Quartermile was completed in mid-2008 and is home to 105,000 sq. ft. of world-class working space. It won the Award for Best Commercial building. In 2024 it reopened after being refurbished with enhanced sustainability features including LED lighting and the addition of a heat recovery system.
8. **Wharton Square (Q10).** Richard Murphy's very dense social housing development is often favourably likened to the much liked, affordable inner-city municipal housing schemes in Vienna – the most famous undoubtedly being the Karl-Marx-Hof.
9. **The Meadows.** In the 1600s the entirety of the park area was taken up by a huge body of water known as the Burgh Loch. It was drained and gradually transformed into today's grassy public park.