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*PINTS, POLITICS AND PIETY:
the architecture and industries of Canongate*

INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION
Sections 1 and 9



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This document forms part of a larger report: [Pints, Politics and Piety: the architecture and industries of Canongate](#).

1. Introduction

This document has been produced as one in a series of studies being undertaken by the combined Urban and Industrial Survey Programmes of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS; from 01 October 2015, known as Historic Environment Scotland (HES)). The aim of the studies is to look at areas of Edinburgh which have been shaped and changed by industries growing up within their townscapes, and to highlight what evidence of the area's history and development still exists in the present-day townscape.

1.1 Background

In 2014, RCAHMS's Urban and Industrial Survey Programmes began a collaborative working approach to survey work in Edinburgh. This provided an avenue for both survey programmes to combine resources and produce a comprehensive study of areas within a city which has not often been considered 'industrial'. The first area identified for survey was the former burgh of Canongate in Edinburgh's Old Town. This was selected as an area which has seen a huge amount of change during its history, with much of this change being the result of industrial developments which are no longer operating in the area. In addition, Canongate was one of the first burghs to be studied under the Scottish Burgh Survey during the 1970s, and it was felt that the information about the area was in need of updating. Whilst the Burgh Survey took an archaeological research approach to the area, the purpose of this study was to look at former and surviving built heritage, right up to present day. Where appropriate, results from recent archaeological excavations which have taken place as part of ongoing redevelopment works have been taken into account when describing the history of the area.

Over a period of several months during 2014 and 2015, staff undertook various aspects of survey work and research into the Canongate area. This document aims to summarise and report on their findings.

The survey was carried out by Lynn Kilpatrick (Urban Survey Projects Manager), Miriam McDonald (Industrial Survey Projects Manager) and Alex Adamson (Architecture Survey & Recording Projects Manager). The survey was supplemented by photographic survey of a range of buildings and other sites within the survey area carried out by RCAHMS photographers. These images have been added to Canmore, the HES online database, along with accompanying explanatory text.

1.2 Research Methods and Outputs

The boundary chosen for the study area was defined by using, as closely as possible, the original boundary for the burgh of Canongate. While, on the face of it, this area appears to be a traditional burgh townscape, this study will demonstrate how much of the area has in fact been completely redeveloped and recreated during its history, yet still retains vestiges of numerous aspects of its historical development.

The survey involved a range of tasks including:

1. Documentary research to trace the area's history and provide a context for the study;
2. Updating all Canmore records for all sites within the survey area boundary;
3. Identifying historic photographs, drawings and engravings of sites within the area;
4. Requisitioning new photography of sites within the area for which there was no previous record, or where sites have been altered/demolished;
5. Using historic maps to trace changes in the layout and extent of development within the area;
6. Production of an illustrated report on the area, including a historical narrative;

7. Disseminating the report on Canmore.

1.3 Notes on Maps and Images

All maps illustrated in the report have north to the top of the page. Scales have been adjusted to fit within the report.

All dates given for maps consulted reflect the date **surveyed**, not the published date.

Copies of HES photos have a unique catalogue number appended at the end of the caption (eg *DP193144*) which serves to identify the item in the National Record. These may be viewed and purchased online from www.canmore.org.uk, although it should be noted that some, particularly aerial views, appear in the report in a cropped form.

9. Conclusions

The history of the Canongate area has been one of constantly changing use and occupancy of buildings within its boundary, and any future redevelopment and reuse would simply be a continuation of that tradition.

Overall, the Canongate area has been constrained in its development by its setting, but has still experienced several phases of improvement schemes. This continues into the early 21st century. Much of the redevelopment in the area has adhered to the original burgh plot layout with the closes connecting Canongate with streets to north and south still very much in evidence despite the contemporary buildings erected within the confines of the burgh plots. A wide variety of building styles are represented across the area, from 16th and 17th century townhouses to major developments from present day (2016).

Improvement schemes carried out across Canongate have often represented major changes in legislation across Scotland, usually as a response to a growing recognition that living conditions have an effect on a resident population's health and wellbeing.

Whilst this report has attempted to be as comprehensive as possible, there are undoubtedly aspects of the Canongate area's historical, archaeological, industrial and social development which have not been covered.