



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

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***BOUNCING BACK:
the architecture and industries of Fountainbridge, Edinburgh***

**INTRODUCTION and AREAS OF TOWNSCAPE CHARACTER MAP
Sections 1 and 3**



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1. Introduction

This is one in a series of studies by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) looking 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

Following on from a comprehensive study of the former burgh of Canongate, a second area of Edinburgh was identified for survey – the 19th century industrial and residential area of Fountainbridge to the west of the city centre. This was selected as an area which has seen a huge amount of change during its relatively short history, with much of this change being the result of industrial developments which are no longer operating in the area. The purpose of this study was to look at former and surviving built heritage, right up to present day and look at this alongside maps of the area. 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 2015, staff undertook various aspects of survey work and research into the Fountainbridge 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 photography of a range of buildings and other sites within and around the survey area carried out by HES 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 focusing on the industrial core which developed between the Union Canal to the south and the West Approach Road (formerly the line of the Caledonian Railway) in the north, along with associated residential developments to the north-east and south-west.

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.

Maps are ***not to scale***, due to formatting within the report.

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

All maps (along with others not specifically referenced within the report) are available to view online via <http://maps.nls.uk/towns/index.html> under 'Edinburgh-city'.

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.

3. Areas of Townscape Character

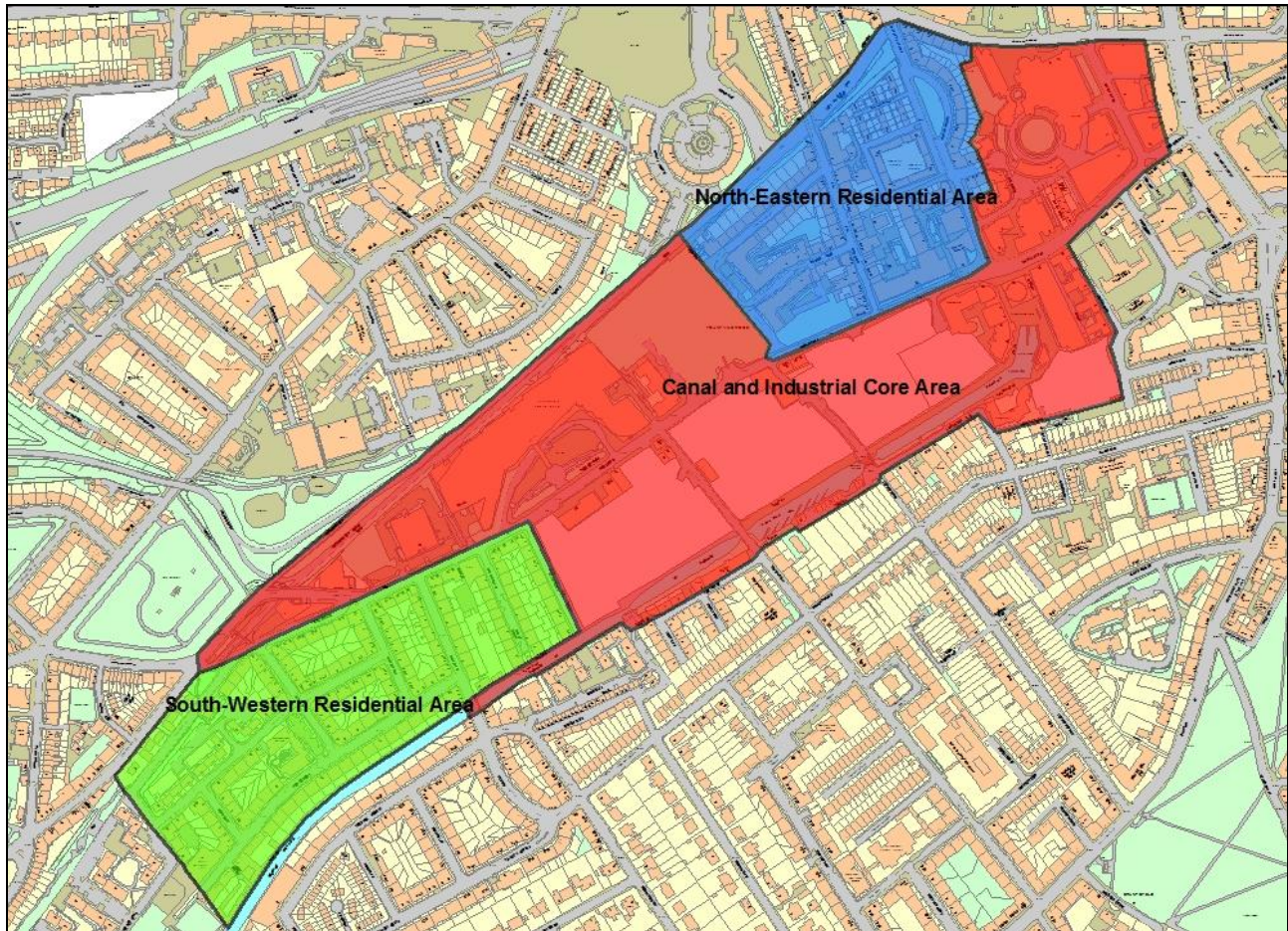


Figure 39: Modern day Fountainbridge and the three character areas identified in this study

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For the purpose of this study, three areas of distinct townscape character have been identified, and their characteristics are outlined in the following sections. The three areas are:

- Canal and Industrial Core
- North-Eastern Residential
- South-Western Residential

The Canal and Industrial Core Area of Townscape Character covers the areas between the West Approach Road and the Union Canal which were given over to industry for the majority of the 19th and 20th centuries.

The North-Eastern Residential Area of Townscape Character incorporates some of the oldest streets within Fountainbridge, including Gardner's Crescent and Grove Street.

The South-Western Residential Area of Townscape Character is comprised almost entirely of tenements. It was developed in the last 30 years of the 19th century and covers the area from Gibson Terrace to the edge of Harrison Park. Much of the land was part of the North Merchiston House Estate.