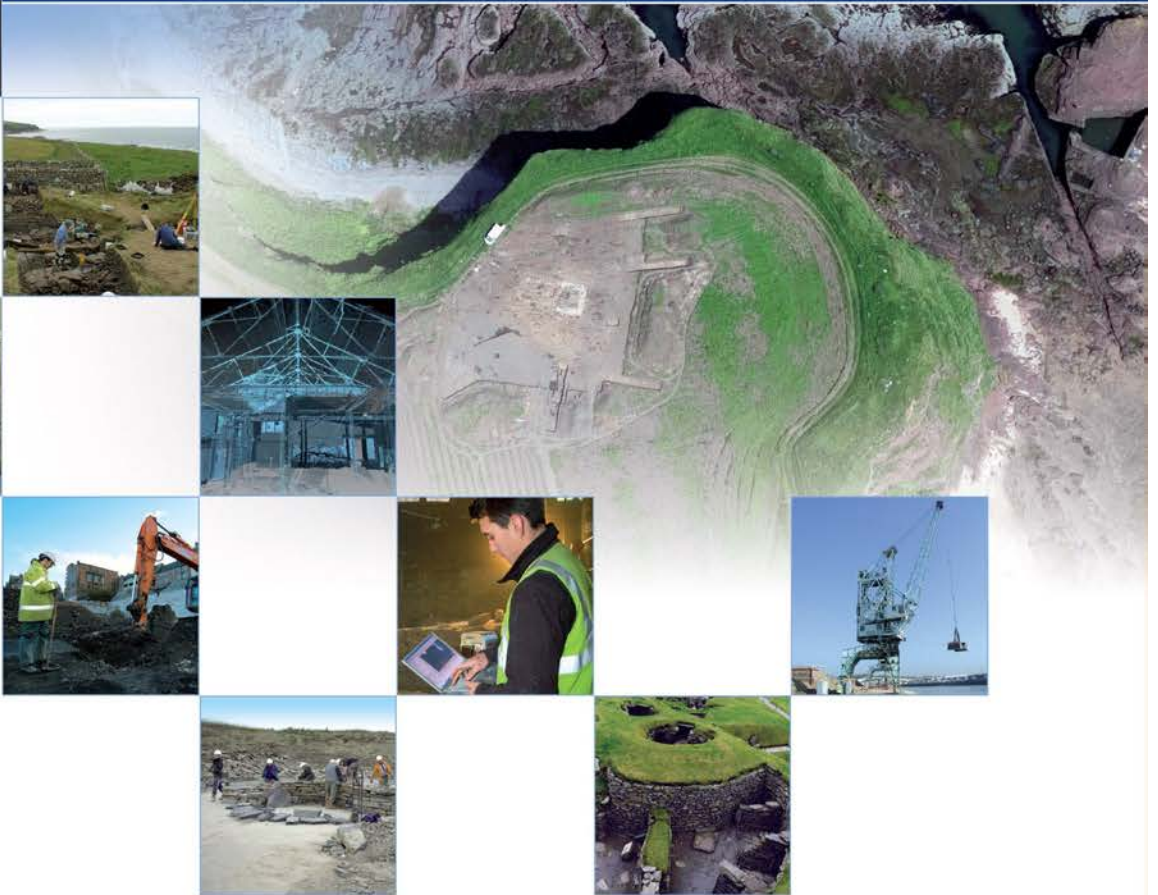


1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge (Earthy), Edinburgh: Historic Building Recording Report

AOC 22812

5th March, 2015



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge (Earthy), Edinburgh:

Historic Building Recording Report

On Behalf of:	Fouin & Bell Architects Ltd 1 John's Place Edinburgh EH6 7EL
National Grid Reference (NGR):	NT 25212 75070
AOC Project No:	22812
Planning Application No:	14/02786/FUL
Prepared by:	Diana Sproat
Date:	5th March 2015

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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Date: 5th March 2015

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Date: 5th March 2015

Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft

Date: 5th March 2015

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Summary

AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Fouin & Bell Architects Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of historic building recording at Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, Edinburgh, prior to planned development of the site.

Some time between 1828 and 1852 a range of buildings were constructed in the position of the present Earthy shop which may or not be the buildings that we see today, although are in the same position. Later in the 1860s a marble works was also built to the rear of the shops. This was later removed in at the turn of the 20th century. The shops, now occupied by a single unit, was once divided into a number of shops.

A watching brief is still required on all ground-breaking works associated with the development as part of the planning condition.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Fouin & Bell Architects Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake an historic building survey at Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, Edinburgh. The works were required as part of the planning consent on the development (Ref: 14/02786/FUL) by the City of Edinburgh Council who are advised on archaeology planning matters by the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). The works were undertaken in keeping with the policies outlined in *Scottish Planning Policy* (2010) and *PAN 2/2011 Planning and Archaeology* (2011) and all nationally recognised guidance for such work, including standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

1.1.2 The building is not listed although it is located within the Inverleith Conservation Area.

1.2 Site Location

1.2.1 Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge is located to the north-east of the city centre immediately to the east of the Water of Leith. It sits on the north side of Huntly Street opposite the junction of Brandon Terrace and Howard Place. It is centred on NGR: NT 25212 75070 (Figure 1).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 The objective of the historic building recording was to record the building prior to development through written, photographic and drawn record. A secondary objective was to create a general history and development of the site.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Historic Building Recording

3.1.1 A Level 2 historic building survey was undertaken as part of the works which consisted of a written, photographic and drawn record of the building, all preceded by map-regression and archive research.

3.1.2 All Ordnance Survey and pre-Ordnance Survey maps were viewed to create a general history and development of the site. Archive research was also undertaken on the history of the building to place the findings in context, the results of which can be found in Section 4. All references used can be found in Section 8.

3.1.3 A general and detailed exterior and interior photographic survey was taken in black and white print and colour digital using a 35mm SLR and digital SLR respectively to a minimum 10 mpxl resolution. A discreetly placed 1m scale was placed in all shots where access and health and safety allowed for scale. General shots of each elevation were taken (both head-on and oblique) as well as the buildings in their setting. Detailed shots of individual features such as doors, windows, architectural detail, etc, were also undertaken. A running register of photographs was taken on site and this record can found in Appendix 1. A selection of digital photographs have been used as plates to illustrate the report.

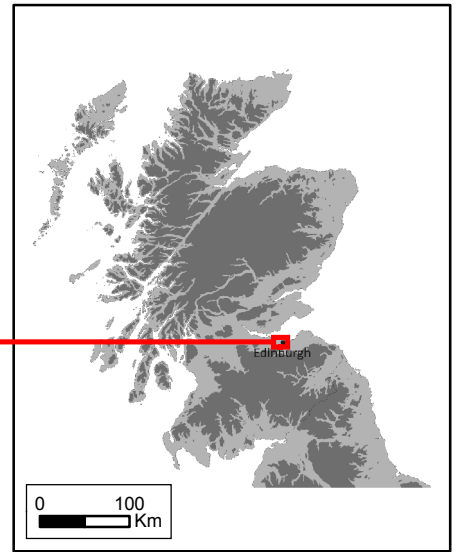
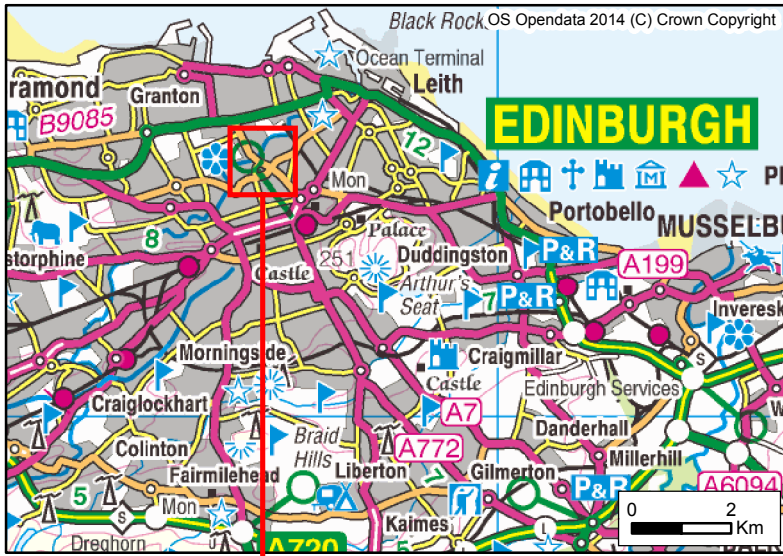


Figure 1: Site location plan

- 3.1.4 A written survey was undertaken of the building using AOC *pro forma* recording sheets with comment on condition, construction, architectural features, modern interventions, and any evidence for phasing and function.
- 3.1.5 A drawn record was also required of the buildings and these consist of annotated architects' floor plans which have been reproduced here as Figure 11.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The area of Canonmills has origins back into the 12th century when the Augustin Canons of Holyrood Abbey operated a mill there. By the 16th century there were several mills in the area due to its proximity to the Water of Leith and the benefit of running mill leads from it as a form of power transmission. In the 18th century, Roy's map of ca. 1747 – 55 shows the area as a cluster of buildings orientated around the north-west/south-east road (the future Canon Street) with the Canonmills Loch featuring prominently to the south-west (Figure 2). This was subsequently drained in three phases, gradually disappearing by the mid-19th century. The Canonmills Bridge was erected in 1767, but was later twice amended in the 19th century.
- 4.2 By the turn of the 19th century, Ainslie's 1804 map shows the development area in more detail, the triangle of land created by a mill lade to the north-east side (Figure 3). It also annotates the site as belonging to a Mr McDowell. However, by Kirkwood's 1817 map, the mill lade to the north-east has gone, as has the annotation to the owner's name (Figure 4). By Hunter & Smith's 1828 map, the development site is established as a smaller triangular patch of land surrounded by roadways (Figure 5). The terraced buildings at Huntley Street have also been constructed to the west of the site showing the continuing expansion of the area in the early 19th century.
- 4.3 By the 1852 Ordnance Survey map, the development area can be seen running directly adjacent to the side of the Water of Leith, separated from it by a line of trees (Figure 6). There is also a small building annotated to the roadside. By the 1870 Ordnance Survey map, however, the site has been completely engulfed by a new Marble Works (Figure 7). This takes up all of the roadside within the development area and also has another building against the Water of Leith. There are a number of plans in the NMRS which date to 1863, however, which show plans and elevations of shops relating to the site, so it is possible that the frontage to Canonmills was taken with shops, and the buildings to the rear part of the marble works. The 1870 Post Office Directory notes the occupants of the site at the time. No 1 was occupied by Mr S McGlashan, sculptor, No 2 by Mr T C Murray, a bookmaker, No 3 by Mrs Thom with a 'smallwares' shop and No 4 by John Northwick a victual dealer.
- 4.4 By the late 19th century, the Marble Works is still depicted, as can be seen on the 1870 Ordnance Survey map, although appears to have been expanded to include buildings across the road to the east (at the present Cannon Court) (Figure 8). In 1894, the Post Office Directory identifies six occupants now: No 1 was a Post Office run by J Simpson, Nos 2 & 3 still occupied by the McGlashan sculptors (now a father and son business), Nos 4 & 5 are not identified as shops but occupied by a Mrs Ferguson and James Hume respectively and No 6 is a chemist (J J Nelson). By the 1909 Ordnance Survey map, however, the building against the Water of Leith to the west has gone (Figure 9), although the shops have remained. This continues throughout the early 20th century to the present day (Figure 10).
- 4.5 Today, the building is a single-storey building with a hipped roof and a more modern building to the west side. It is occupied by the Earthy food shop and restaurant.



Figure 2: Extract from Roy's map, ca. 1747 – 55 (development area circled in blue)



Figure 3: Extract from Ainslie's map, 1804



Figure 4: Extract from Kirkwood's map, 1817



Figure 5: Extract from Hunter & Smith's map, 1828



Figure 6: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1852

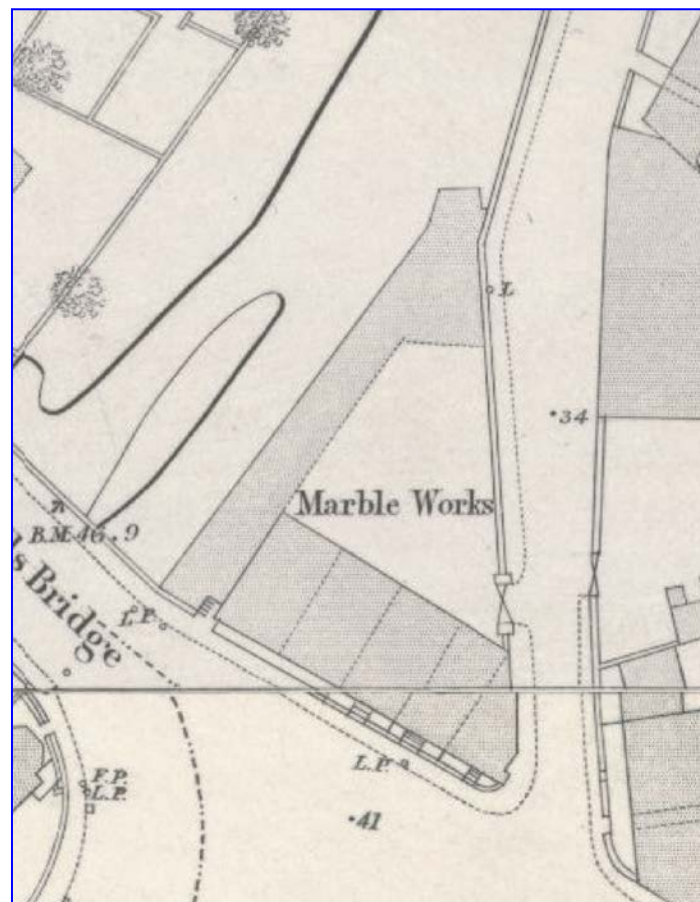


Figure 7: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1870

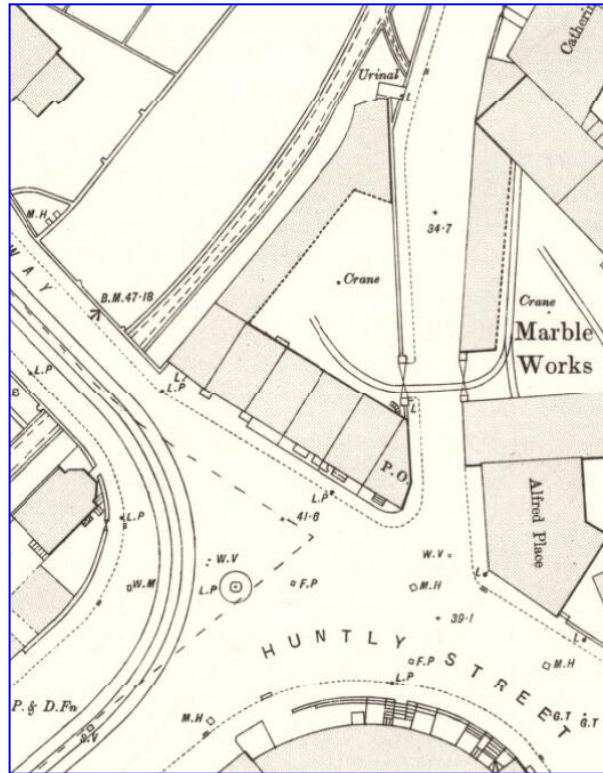


Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1894



Figure 9: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1909

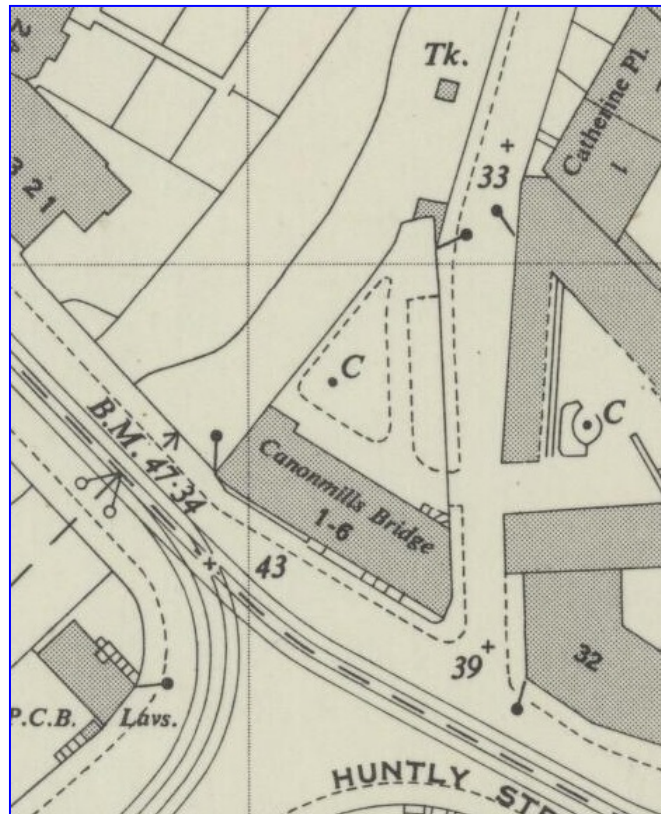


Figure 10: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1949

5 HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

- 5.1 The building today is occupied by the Earthy shop and restaurant, but has previously been occupied by up to three separate shops. The main south-east street elevation reflects this, with a three-bay centre shop with hipped slate roof and two flat-roofed wings to each side (Plates 1 & 2). Of the centre part of the shop, the south-easternmost has a central doorway (now not in use) with shop windows to either side and is framed by a pair of nice console brackets (Plates 3 & 4). The other two shop fronts appear to have been modified slightly and have shop windows and a single doorway to the north-west side. The flat-roofed unit constructed in brick to the north-west is a small plain unit with a north-west elevation facing the Water of Leith (Plate 5). It is painted only at ground floor level with double windows to the basement area. It has been built over the stone rubble walling of the Water of Leith and a modern boundary wall has been constructed above it also to the rear. The south-east flat-roofed unit to Warriston Road is covered in roughcast and angled back, with four brick-blocked openings to the basement level and two boarded windows to the ground floor (Plates 6 & 7).
- 5.2 The rear north-east elevation is an eight-bay elevation covered in roughcast, with both basement and ground floor access (Plate 8). The flat-roofed shop to the south-east side is no longer present here as it creates a triangle to the plot of land. The south-east bays of the centre range also show some older features, including a basement opening framed with fluting and a ground floor oriel-style window (Plates 9 & 10). The rest of the elevation is fairly plain, with another two doorways to the basement level with the north-west side projecting slightly forwarding with a stairwell (Plate 11).
- 5.3 Internally, the shop has been opened up and heavily modified to accommodate the Earthy shop and restaurant (Figure 11; Plates 12 & 13).

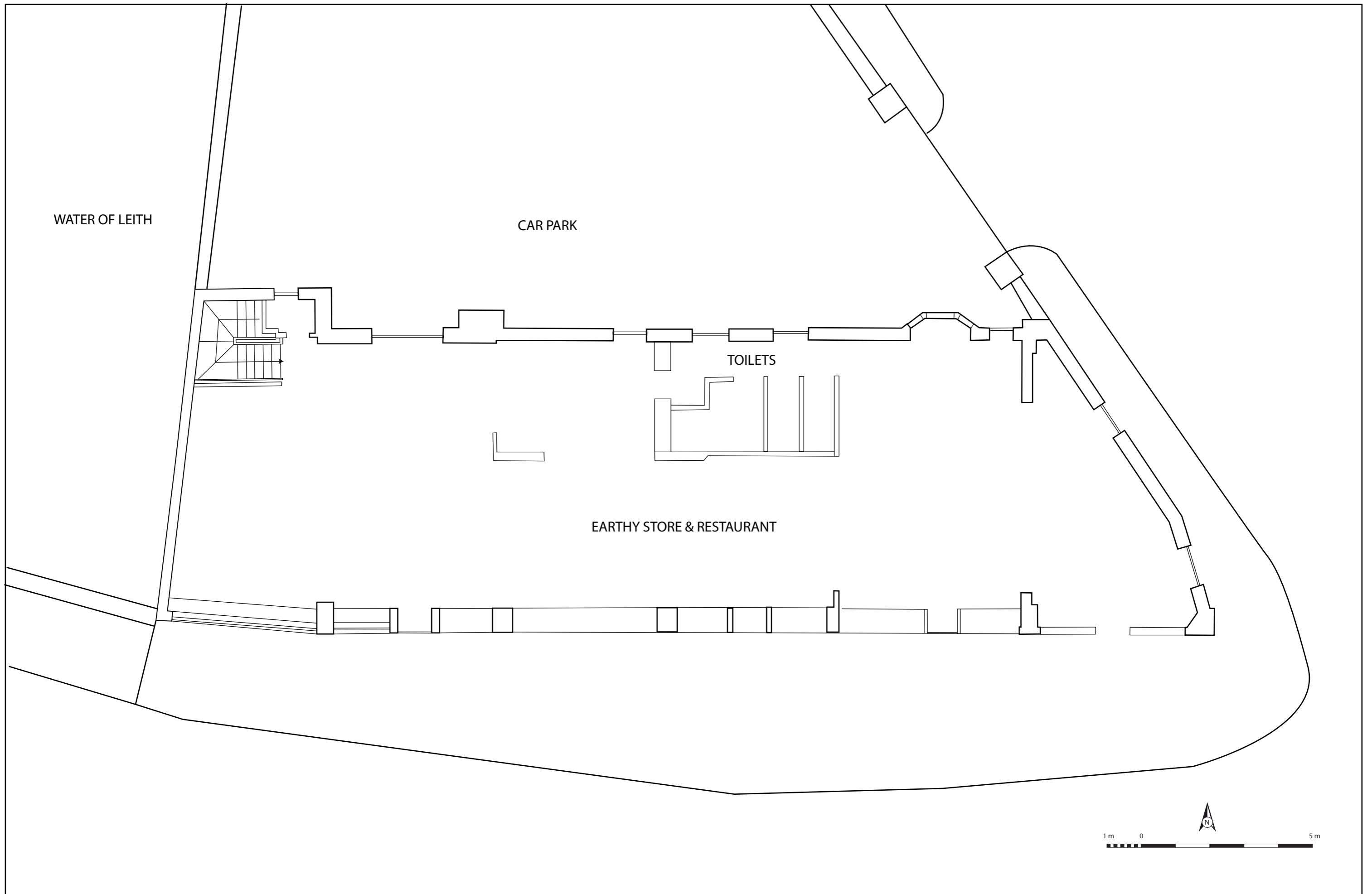


Figure 11: Nos 1 - 6 Canonmills Bridge, ground floor plan



Plate 1: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the south-west elevation from the west



Plate 2: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the south-west elevation from the south



Plate 3: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, detail of the main shop front (second from the south-east) from the south



Plate 4: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, detail of the console bracket on the main shop front (second from the south-east) from the west



Plate 5: No 1 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the north-west elevation to the Water of Leith, from the north-west



Plate 6: No 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the south-east elevation from the south



Plate 7: No 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the south-east elevation from the east



Plate 8: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the rear north-east elevation from the north-east



Plate 9: No 2 Canonmills Bridge, detail of the blocked basement opening, from the north-east



Plate 10: No 2 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the north-east elevation from the east



Plate 11: No 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the north-east elevation from the east



Plate 12: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the interior of the Earthy shop from the north-west



Plate 13: Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, general view of the interior of the Earthy shop from the south-east

6 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The shops were constructed between 1828 and 1852 looking at the historical mapping. In the 1860s, the shops were joined to the side and rear by a Marble Works, which was removed some time in the 1894 – 1909. The north-west shop range was also a later addition after the removal of the works, built in brick some time in the early-mid 20th century, although before 1949.
- 6.2 Very little has survived in the interior of the building of how the shops would have looked like originally and the basement has also been fitted out to accommodate a kitchen and offices related to the Earthy store.

7 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 This report has successfully recorded these old shop fronts prior to their demolition for new development. The shops have been modified both internally and externally, although some nice features survived such as the console brackets to one of the shop fronts.
- 7.2 No further historic building recording is recommended on the site. However, a watching brief is still required on the site after the demolition of the building on all ground-breaking works associated with the development as part of the planning condition. The remains of the marble works may still be present in the rear car park of the site.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliographical references

Post Office Directory of Edinburgh & Leith

- 1870 – 71, p 201
- 1894 – 95, p 385

Scottish Planning Policy SPP23. 2008 *Archaeology and Planning*. Scottish Government Nov 2008.

Scottish Government 2011 *Planning and Archaeology 2/2011*.

8.2 Cartographic reference

1747 – 55	William Roy	<i>Military Map of Scotland</i>
1804	John Ainslie	<i>Old and New Town of Edinburgh and Leith with the Proposed Docks</i>
1817	Robert Kirkwood	<i>This plan of the City of Edinburgh and its Environs</i>
1828	Hunter & Smith	<i>Plan of Edinburgh & Leith exhibiting all the present & intended Improvements</i>
1840	Johnston	<i>Plan of Edinburgh, Leith & Suburbs</i>
1852	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburgh Sheet 20</i>
1852	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburgh Sheet 24</i>
1870	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburgh Sheet 20</i>
1870	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburgh Sheet 24</i>
1894	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet III.3.9</i>
1909	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet III.3.9</i>
1944	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet III.3.9</i>
1949	Ordnance Survey	<i>Plan NT2575SW</i>

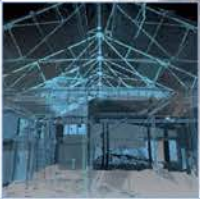
APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

Black & White Print & Colour Digital Film #1

Frame	Area	Description	Taken From	Date
1 – 13	-	Unassigned	-	-
14	-	Interior – general view of stairwell down to basement level	S	04/02/2015
15 – 16	-	Interior – general view of store	SE	04/02/2015
17		Interior – general view of store	NW	04/02/2015
18 – 19	SW Elevation	General view	SW	04/02/2015
20	SW Elevation	General view	SWW	04/02/2015
21 – 22	NW Elevation	General view	NW	04/02/2015
23	SW Elevation	Detail of bracket to the shop front to the SE side	W	04/02/2015
24	SW Elevation	General view of shop front to SE side	S	04/02/2015
25 – 26	SW Elevation	Detail of top of shop front to the SE side	SSW	04/02/2015
27	SE Elevation	General view	SE	04/02/2015
28	SE Elevation	General view	E	04/02/2015
29	NE Elevation	General view	NE	04/02/2015
30	NE Elevation	Detail of the SE side	NE	04/02/2015
31 – 32	NE Elevation	Detail of the oriel window to the SE side	N	04/02/2015
33	NE Elevation	Detail of basement to the SE side	N	04/02/2015
34	NE Elevation	General view	NE	04/02/2015
35	SW Elevation	General view	S	04/02/2015
36	-	Registration	-	04/02/2015

APPENDIX 2: DISCOVERY & EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND (DES) ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME	Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge
PROJECT CODE:	AOC 22812
PARISH:	Edinburgh (City of)
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Diana Sproat
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	AOC Archaeology Group
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Recording
NMRS NO(S)	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Shops
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	N/A
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 25212 75070
START DATE (this season)	4 th February 2015
END DATE (this season)	4 th February 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Fouin & Bell Architects Ltd on behalf of their client to undertake a programme of historic building recording at Nos 1 – 6 Canonmills Bridge, Edinburgh, prior to planned development of the site. Some time between 1828 and 1852 a range of buildings were constructed in the position of the present Earthy shop which may or not be the buildings that we see today, although are in the same position. Later in the 1860s a marble works was also built to the rear of the shops. This was later removed in at the turn of the 20 th century. The shops, now occupied by a single unit, was once divided into a number of shops.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Archaeological Watching Brief
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	----
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mountlake Limited
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EMAIL ADDRESS:	admin@aocarchaeology.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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