

Woodhall House, Colinton, Edinburgh.



November 2011 – March 2013

Carried out on behalf of Lorn MacNeal Architects



BUILDINGS ARCHAEOLOGIST AND HERITAGE CONSULTANT

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ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1: Location plan.

Figure 2: Adair 1682, Roy 1755, and 1853 1st Ed Ordnance Survey map.

Figure 3: South facing principal elevation and basement plan

Figure 4: Phased Basement plan

Figure 5: North facing elevation

References and Bibliography

Appendix 1: Photo List

Appendix 2: DES entry

Image Thumbnails



Figure 1: Location Plan

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological buildings appraisal was required due to an archaeological condition being placed on the development at Woodhall House, Edinburgh. The site is located, within an historic landscape, and sits within its own grounds in the northwest foothills of the Pentland Hills to the south of the City of Edinburgh (see Figure 1).
- 1.2 The work consisted of visual, photographic and written description of the exterior after and during repointing to investigate the potential impact of proposed works on the exterior fabric. In addition, the interior works on the roofspace and any soft stripping was
- 1.3 This project was commissioned by Mr Lorn MacNeal, Architects and work was undertaken on dates in April and May 2011 and again in October - November 2012 and February 2013; all recording was restricted to the areas to be impacted by development works.
- 1.4 The work will enable the Edinburgh City Archaeological Officer to decide on the need for further work, or the removal of this particular condition
- 1.5 Further work is not advised based on the nature of the archaeological works carried out and the evidence of structural history uncovered.
- 1.6 The fabric of the building that will be impacted by building work dates primarily to the late 19th century when a major refurbishment was undertaken. The entire roof structure and all the upper rooms have been altered at this time. The repointing of the exterior and the discussion on re-harling the exterior wall surfaces gave valuable insights into the structural history of the building, including and understanding of the phased alterations.
- 1.7 OASIS ENTRY REFERENCE NUMBER: - CONNOLLY1-145166

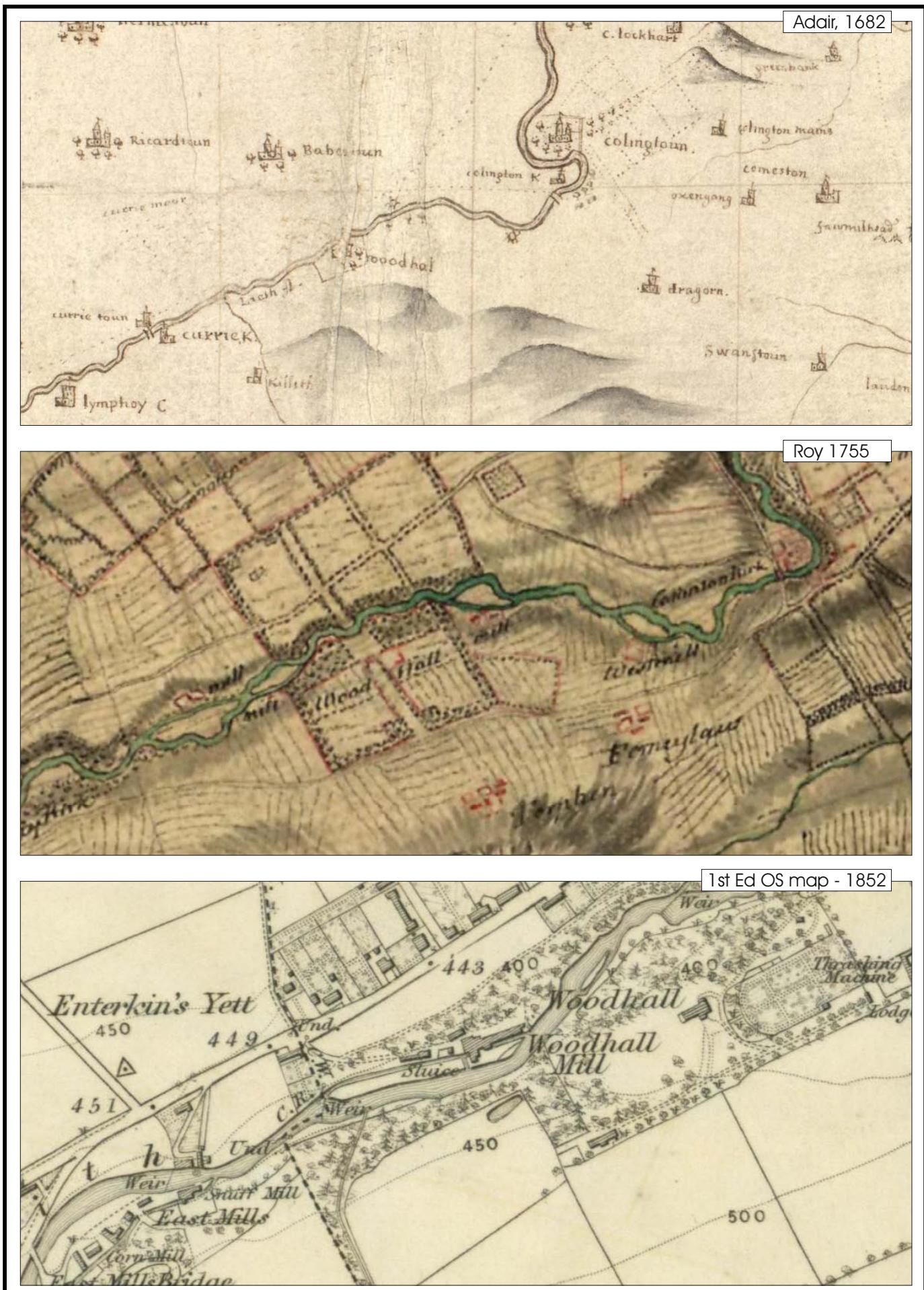


Figure 2: Historic Mapping

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. SITE LOCATION

- 2.1.1. The site is located at the end of Woodhall Road, that is accessed Colinton via a road that leads underneath the south city bypass. The Site lies directly to the south of the historic village of Currie , at NT 19729 68348 (Figure. 1).

2.2. SITE HISTORY

- 2.2.1. The house is located within it's own grounds within an historic estate high above the water of Leith and is recorded as site NT16NE 111 by the RCAHMS
- 2.2.2. Map regression on the site was conducted; however, the level of detail is not sufficient to establish ground plan changes. (Figure 2)
- 2.2.3. According to the local historical historian (Cumming, 1998) the estate is first mentioned in the 1320s in a charter of David II when it was leased to on Alexander Menzies of Woodhall. Sir Alexander Menzies of Glendochart also held the lands of Redhall, Swanston, Philmoorie, Dreghorn, and Durrisdeer.
- 2.2.4. By 1374 the estate and likely some substantial residence was settled on Sir William Cunningham of Kilmaurs, who were to own the lands for the next 300 years.
- 2.2.5. The 3rd Lord, William was a reformer and attended the Parliament of 1550 to pledge support for John Knox and the Protestant faith and with his opposition to Mary Queen of Scots, he was soon outlawed and denounced as a rebel while his son supported the Queen.
- 2.2.6. William was obviously at odds with his eldest son John because of this, and signed over the lands to his second son John who had followed his father's reforming ways when he became the 4th Lord in 1577. This is evident in 1566, when John is involved in the murder of David Rizzio, the Italian secretary and confidant of the Queen.
- 2.2.7. John the 5th Cunningham was a minor when his father John died in 1589, and was 'curated' by John Cokburne of Ormestoun, Alexander Lawder of Haltoun, George Hamilton of Preston and Jame Foulis of Colinton. Each vying to control the child's fortune and with it, the estate of Woodhall.
- 2.2.8. The House itself comes into the spotlight when a young Thomas Ingles of Murdingstoun has Hamilton of Preston appointed as his Tutor by none other

than James VI. Along with Foulis they hide the boy at Woodhall, but Robert Hamilton of Stanehouse creeps into Woodhall and kidnaps the boy.

- 2.2.9. Previous Cunninghames from perhaps the 3rd Lord, William will have occupied the phase 1 structure, which seems to be a stout tower house of late to mid 16th century date. However the next Cunningham was to greatly alter and extend the structure, updating the building to a more fashionable house, with a plaster ceiling which is an outstanding example of early 17th century ornate Scottish ceiling decoration.



PLATE 1: KING DAVID MEDALLION ON THE 17TH CENTURY PLASTER CEILING

- 2.2.10. The 6th Cunningham sold the estate in 1629 – including “*tower, manor place, walks and grainmills and 32 oxengates of land*” for £23,000 (over £5 million in todays money) to Sir Adam Cunningham of Arkletoun in Dumfries. In 1630, he began his extensions and refurbishment (phase 2). He was a staunch royalist and was appointed by Charles I as one of the Supreme Commission for punishing “*receivers of Jesuits, papists, hearers of Masses and those who spoke against the church*” Ironic given the later use for the house.
- 2.2.11. The new Cunningham owners of the Barony of Woodhall from 1671 were often high ranking advocates and lawyers, even Keepers of the Great Seal – having married a daughter of the previous Sir Adam Cunningham as his son predeceased him. Thus the estate became property of the Cunninghams of Enterkine, from Ayrshire.
- 2.2.12. The estate was soon sold to Sir John Foulis, whose ancestors had once protected the young Cunningham in the late 16th century. In 1703 we see an extensive redecoration, all described in one of the remarkable account books – giving us a detailed picture of a gentlemans life in the early 18th century – and worth a read in it's own right.

- 2.2.13. Foulis of Ravelston set to work improving the estate of Woodhall, which had been much injured by the debts of its former possessor. To accomplish this he let Ravelston, on which he had spent much money, and having purchased Woodhall from the heirs of John Cunningham of Enterkine (whose widow was his third wife), he devoted the latter part of his life to the estate.
- 2.2.14. It is probable that the final major refurbishment of the house took place in the early 19th century by Sir John Foulis. Extending the range to the rear and adding the grand central tower as a new entrance. The crenelated parapet was added and the roof was completely rebuilt, with none of the earlier timbers surviving.
- 2.2.15. In the 1930s, the estate is bought by the Glendinings, who sell again in 7 years to Sir Stanley Davidson. 21 years later, the estate is again sold to the Society of Jesus and is used as a Jesuit College until 1976. The house again comes into private hands in 1976, until this new ownership in 2012.
- 2.2.16. Each generation and family has taken the estate as custodians of the land in which it lies, as it has for over 700 years, each adding to the house a piece of their own time.



PLATE 2:PART OF PRINCIPAL SOUTH ELEVATION SHOWING THE ALTERATIONS.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. To understand the evolution of the structure over time from potential construction date to present day. Including basic phasing and dating of the main constructional elements.
- 3.2. The basis for investigation is to examine the presence of any substantive historic architectural features within the roof structure exposed during renovation works.
- 3.3. Ground breaking works within the garden area were to be examined during excavation with a watching brief.
- 3.4. As no intrusive work has been carried out in this location before, the relationships of the present standing structures to any previous structures may be examined as part of the investigation.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 Elevations were photographed, and notes made on constructional details within the Main structure of the building, with details recorded to best interpret the construction.
- 4.2 A list of images is presented in Appendix 2 and accompanied by a DVD of all photographs.
- 4.3 A written description of features was created as a narrative to aid interpretation of the building phases.
- 4.4 Special attention was afforded evidence of previous harling, and the roof structure.
- 4.5 The opportunity to examine the historic fabric of the building during the raking out and repointing of the building allowed a re-examination of the building phases to be created during this process.

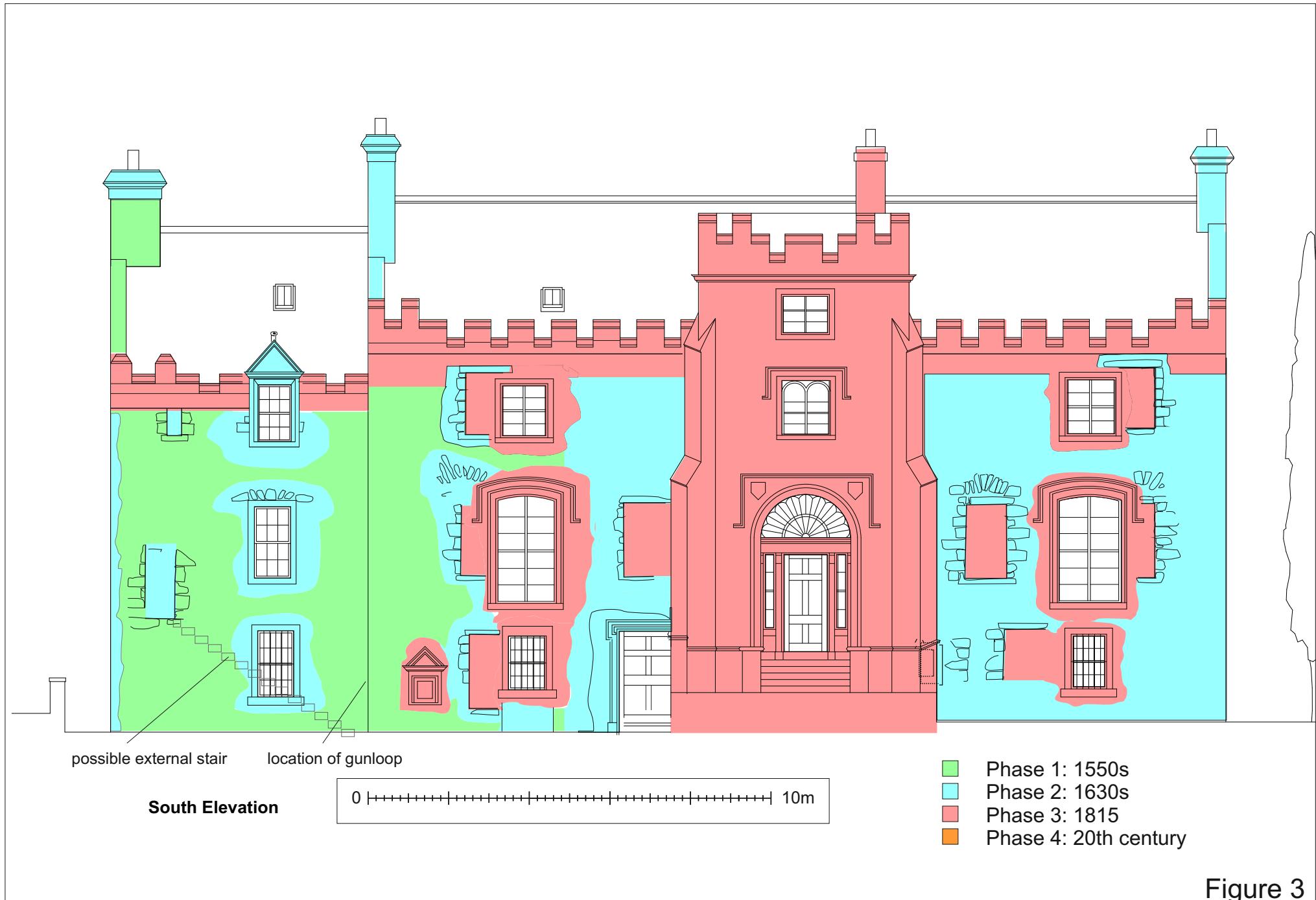


Figure 3

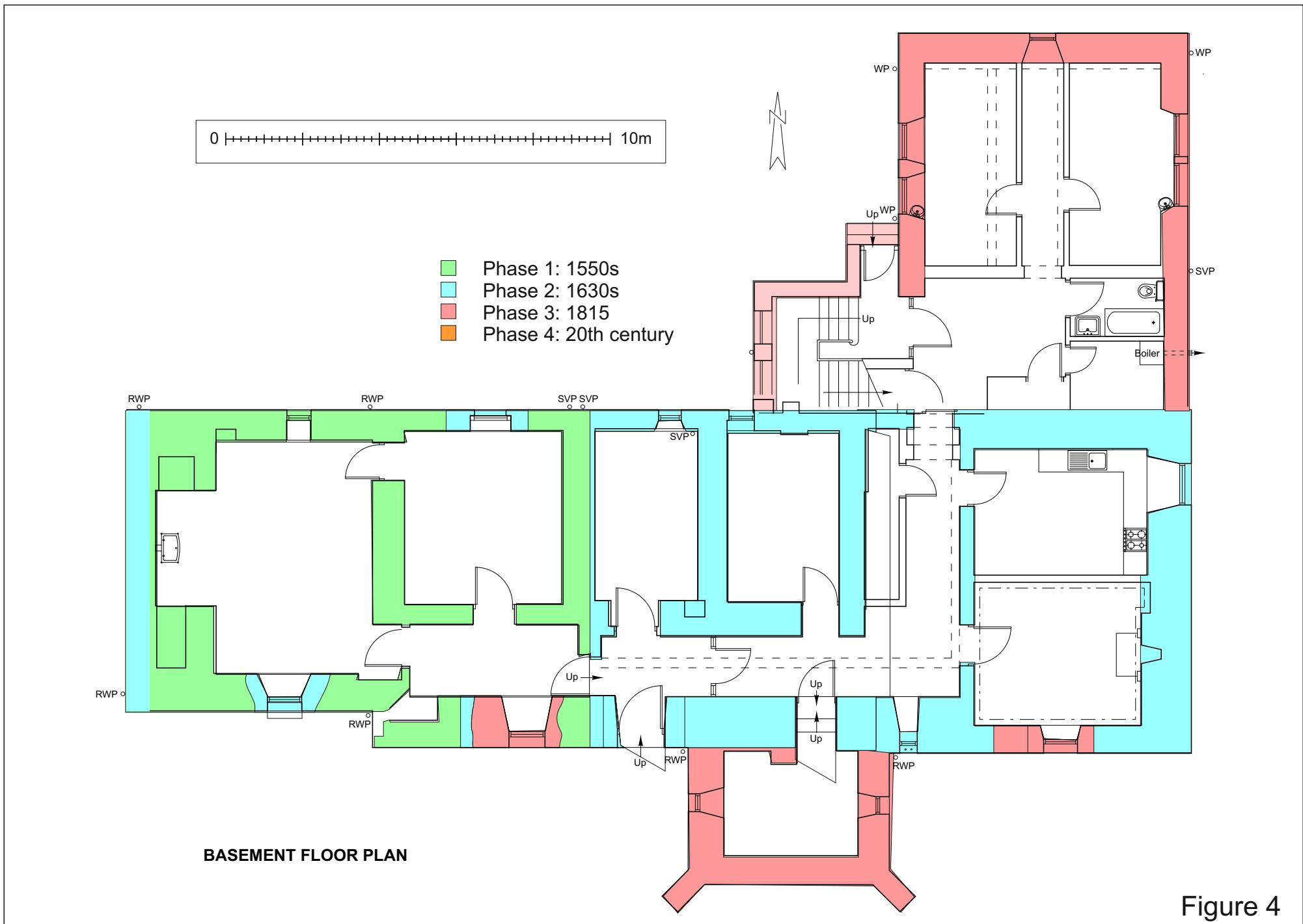




Figure 5

5.0 RESULTS

5.1 FIELDWORK

- 5.1.1 The work was undertaken over a series of days during April and May 2011, November 2012 and February 2013 with fine weather externally and good visibility internally and the interior of the building had access to all areas, and light was provided where required

5.2 BUILDING RECORD (FIGS. 3-5)

- 5.2.1 The exterior had been repointed in cement, creating a serious issue with both the structural integrity of the stonework and the visual access to the various blocked openings and construction / alteration phases. The opportunity to reassess the structure was an opportunity – given the potential of the building to be harled. The harling was shown to have happened in the past, however, the client no longer required this and the exterior walls are now left as-is, though with the cement now removed and the walls repointed with appropriate material.
- 5.2.2 The south principal elevation shows 3 main phases of activity (Figure 3) which can be assigned to known events and people within the historical timeline. The earliest belongs to a stout tower house which occupies the western range of the current structure. Apart from a small window (now blocked) on the upper story, no windows from this phase survive, however, an opening was uncovered during the raking out of the cement (Plate 3).

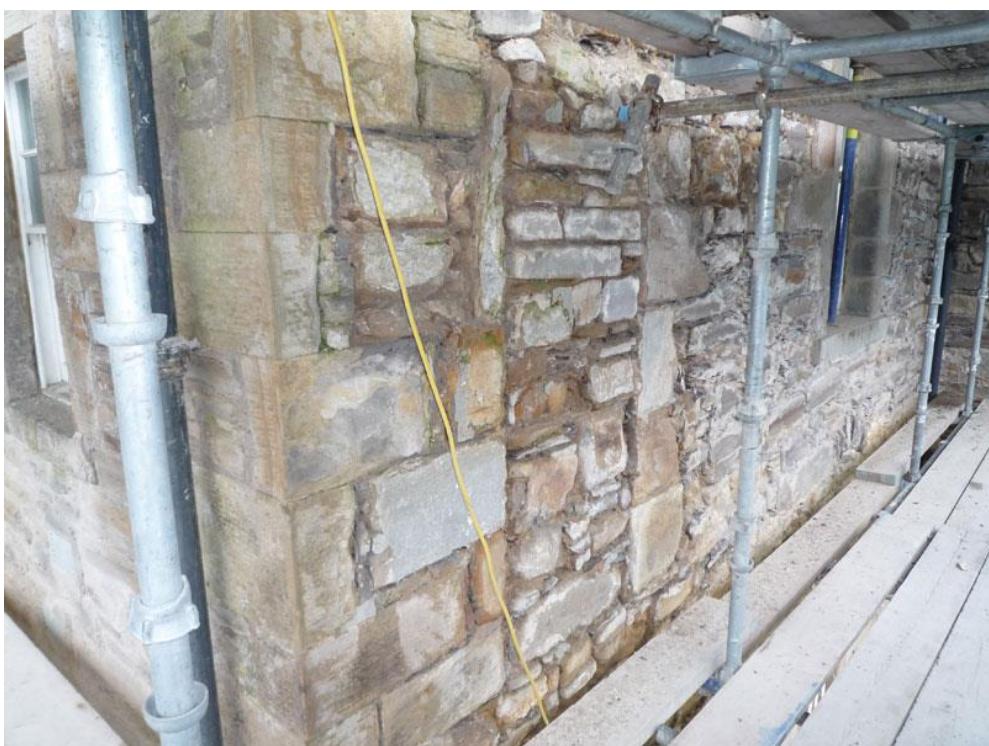


PLATE 3. BLOCKED DOORWAY AT SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTH ELEVATION

- 5.2.3 This opening is clearly not a window, given the base where the sill would be found is at floor level (based on the vaulted chamber below) and so may be a first floor door accessed by a now missing stair. This would make sense of the gun loop in the west range angle, as the loop is of classic 16th century design and covers the ascent to the doorway. Given the times that this building was constructed, the 1st floor door and defended entrance would make sense.
- 5.2.4 The second fenestration phase can be dated to the 1630s, as again attested by the documentary evidence. It is evident that a new more open fenestration was adopted, and the door moved to the lower floor as well as the entire building being extended to the east by at least 4 bays. It is noticeable that the three central bays on the first floor (upper floor) seem to have no window openings.
- 5.2.5 The final phase comes with the major alterations to Georgian style by Sir John Foulis in or around 1815. His additions include the fine central staitower entrance with broad steps and magnificent fanlight and hooded doorway with shield devices. In addition to the stair tower, Foulis adds a castellation to the upper floor wallhead, and in the process, raises the wall and roof, meaning the entire roof structure dates to no earlier than 1815.
- 5.2.6 The west elevation is of note given that the quoins are of distinctive early 19th century form – with droved and broached margins. The honey gold sandstone masonry of the wall fabric is also built from long coursed stonework, which is not matched by the rest of the rubble built structure. It is quite possible, though remarkable that the west gable has been completely refaced and the corners rebuilt. This seems to be confirmed by the presence of a window in the gable elevation that is visible on the interior but not the exterior. (Plate 4)



PLATE 4: BLOCKED WINDOW IN WEST GABLE FROM INTERIOR ROOFSPACE, THOUGH NOT VISIBLE ON EXTERIOR.

- 5.2.7 This also suggests that the original towerhouse was a further story higher, that would perhaps make sense of the off centre chimney stack. If this as the case (and it is conjecture) then this would have been an impressive tower house in keeping with a noble family.



PLATE 5: WEST GABLE – NOTE THE OFF CENTRE CHIMNEY AND COURSED MASONARY. THE ‘MISSING’ WINDOW LIES ABOVE THE CURRENT UPPER WINDOW.

- 5.2.8 The rear north elevation continues the evidence for constructional phases seen on the south elevation. Two blocked windows survive for the earliest period, and at the base, there is a small barred opening that provides light to the interior vaulted kitchen space. Further windows have been inserted to light the interior in both the 1630s and 1815, however, the largest alteration is the northeast extension that extends from the northeast of the main structure. Dormer windows are inserted for accommodation in the attic during the 1815 development, ostensibly for servant quarters, and this floor has been redeveloped again in the 20th century with the stripping out of the interior and stud partition walls being used to subdivide the space. It is clear that the castellated effect was meant to be seen only from the front of the building.
- 5.2.9 Apart from acknowledging the constructional phases within the building, it was outwith the brief to carry out any detailed recording however, the basement structure is clearly a survivor of the original building in the 16th century, most likely in the 1550s. The ground floor day room above has a fine plaster ceiling that contains medallions of both King David and King Alexander – referring obliquely to

the history of the Estate and it's then owners the Cunninghames. Clan Cunningham fought for King *Alexander III* of Scotland at the Battle of *Largs* in 1263 and David is in fact a double allusion relating also to the King David of the bible, with his harp. (Plates 1) The motto NOBIS HAEC INVICTA MISERUNT 108 PROAVI – *To us 108 ancestors have sent these unconquered things.*

- 5.2.10 Minor antiquities of Edinburgh, by the author of 'Traditions of Edinburgh ... By Robert Chambers relates how in 1619 at Holyrood palace there was described a stone – cunningly fashioned above a door with a red lion and the motto NOBIS HAEC INVICTA MISERUNT 106 PROAVI - 2 less than at Woodhall House!
- 5.2.11 The upper floors were as described previously all of 19th century date and had been previously stripped back in the 20th century during the period that the building was used as a Jesuit college. There are no surviving timbers from this period.
- 5.2.12 In terms of interior and exterior record, to meet the brief, there is little extra to add. The potential for exterior archaeological deposits has yet to be explored, but may require a further reporting.

MAP REFERENCES

Adair, John, surveyed 1682

Roy, William Gen, fl 1755

Ordnance Survey Map 1854 Midlothianshire 6" scale map surveyed 1852 - 1st Edition

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Foulis, John,. The account book of Sir John Foulis of Ravelston 1671-1707. Edinburgh: Printed at the University Press by T. and A. Constable for the Scottish History Society, 1894.

Knight Frank (2002) Woodhall House, Colinton, Edinburgh: [sale particulars], Edinburgh

Paterson Cumming, F (1998) The history of Woodhall House, Edinburgh

APPENDIX 1 PHOTO REGISTER

Ref.		Direction to:	Description
WHH12_	1		View into roof space in west range.
WHH12_	2	East	View of attic space room. Note 20 th century conversion.
WHH12_	3	East	Roof space in east range. Note wide sarking and machine cut truss timbers (19 th century).
WHH12_	4	North	Principle elevation of Woodhall House centred on entrance tower. Earlier west range to the left.
WHH12_	5	North	East end of principle south elevation. Note how large window has truncated earlier fenestration.
WHH12_	6	Northeast	View of stair tower south elevation and west elevation showing relative locations of the hood moulded window on the ground floor and earlier fenestration. Note also lower 17 th century door with roll mouldings, partially obscured by later entrance tower block.
WHH12_	7	East	View of gun loop in angle of west block. Note this must have originally covered an entrance into the building.
WHH12_	8	North	Later inserted feature consisting of a face masked plaque below a dormer window pediment. Note blocked window to right.
WHH12_	9	North	19 th century (1815) hood moulded window in principle south elevation.
WHH12_	10	North	Example of 17 th century inserted window with low margins, sill and relieving arch.
WHH12_	11	North	Surviving dormer window from 17 th century. Note later 18 th century castellation. Pediment of dormer window retains original ornamentation.
WHH12_	12	North	Example of later 19 th century 1 st floor window replacing earlier 17 th century window to left.
WHH12_	13	North	Example of later 19 th century castellation above original fabric with chimney stack beyond.
WHH12_	14	Northeast	West range of Woodhall House showing relationship of earlier block to later fenestration. Note doorway blocked at 1 st floor level.
WHH12_	15	East	Gable end of west range containing 2 windows. Note coursed stonework not in keeping with the original fabric and chimney stack located off centre.
WHH12_	16	South	Part of north rear elevation showing less ornate ground floor window and barred cellar window below.
WHH12_	17	South	Rear elevation showing various windows from various periods and clearly showing differing stonework between the original 16 th century range to the right and 17 th century range to the left.
WHH12_	18	East	1815 extension to rear of main building. Note equal fenestration and window

			panes all of early 19 th century design with landscape panes 6 over 6.
WHH12_	19	South	Detail of lower basement window with rounded surround and original iron bars into kitchen.
WHH12_	20	South	Detail of lower basement window of 17 th century design with original iron bars but much larger than earlier opening which it must have replaced.
WHH12_	21	South	Detail of ground floor rear window in west range but note different stone wall material to right of window as opposed to left.
WHH12_	22	South	Detail of downpipes to left of west range showing harl behind.
WHH12_	23		Detail of harl behind cement render.
WHH12_	24	South	Detail of harl behind cement render on lower ground floor.
WHH12_	25	Southwest	Detail of lower part of east gable elevation at join between main building and 19 th century extension. Note use of various stonework from other locations.
WHH12_	26	West	View of blocked window on ground floor in east gable elevation.
WHH12_	27		Detail of harl on east gable elevation.
WHH12_	28	Northwest	Large boulder foundations on east gable.
WHH12_	29	East	Interior of attic space. Note machine cut timber (19 th century).
WHH12_	30	West	Within attic space of west range. Note blocked window in gable not visible on exterior.
WHH12_	31	West	Within attic space of west range. Remains of harl on chimney stack and evidence of the roof being raised in the 19 th century.
WHH12_	32	East	View of trusses in attic space in west range.
WHH12_	33	East	View of stone wall chimney flue.
WHH12_	34	North	View of west range south elevation.
WHH12_	35	North	View of central stair entrance tower of south elevation.
WHH12_	36	North	East end of west range. South elevation.
WHH12_	37	Northwest	View of stair entrance tower elevation and side and part of east range.
WHH12_	38	Northeast	Detail of inserted 1815 hood moulded window surround. Note twist and bulge on wall.
WHH12_	39	North	View of roll moulded 17 th century door on lower basement level of west range, south elevation.
WHH12_	40	Northwest	Detail of upper castellated walling after joints raked out.

WHH12_	41	Southea st	Detail of truncated dormer window of 16 th century date on north elevation west range after joints raked out.
WHH12_	42	Northwe st	General view of chimney breast works from central stair tower.
WHH12_	43	Northea st	View of east gable chimney stack and 1960s college beyond.
WHH12_	44	North	General view of work on central chimney stack from stair tower.
WHH12_	45		Interior of 1 st floor room with floorboards stripped showing machine cut joists.
WHH12_	46	Northea st	Detail of 1 st floor door in west range, south elevation (possible original entrance). Note quoins to west gable end are droved in a typical 19 th century style, suggesting entire gable end has been replaced.
WHH12_	47	South	North rear elevation of west range, blocked windows and lower basement floor opening. Note truncated dormer at top of elevation.
WHH12_	48		Inside drawing room, detail of cornice work 18/19 th century.
WHH12_	49		Interior of day room Kind David medallion.
WHH12_	50		Interior of day room Sceptre, Sword and Crown with motto.
WHH12_	51		Interior of day room ceiling with Lion holding Sceptre and Sword.
WHH12_	52		Interior of day room ceiling with King Alexander Medallion.
WHH12_	53		Interior of day room ceiling with Winged Cherub.
WHH12_	54	North	Interior of drawing room showing moulded surround of window and room cornice in Georgian style.
WHH12_	55	Northwe st	Lower basement in west range showing kitchen fireplace.
WHH12_	56	North	Lower basement kitchen room. Vaulted chamber with small window opening.
WHH12_	57	Southwe st	Detail of interior of kitchen vault fireplace with bread oven.
WHH12_	58	Southwe st	Detail of gun loop from corridor. Also showing door in vaulted kitchen in the lower basement west range.
WHH12_	59		Detail of join between earlier east range and Georgian north range, however, roof structure has been replaced.
WHH12_	60	Vertical	Area of ceiling plaster falling away to reveal typical Georgian lathe work.
WHH12_	61		Georgian door surrounds in ground floor rooms.
WHH12_	62		Georgian door surrounds in ground floor rooms.
WHH12_	63	North	Exposed stone window in ground floor bedroom. Blocked on exterior.

WHH12_	64		Door into master bedroom on 1 st floor with beaded surround.
WHH12_	65		Detail of attic space rooms showing machine cut timber and later 1960s panelling.
WHH12_	66		

APPENDIX 2 DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION SCOTLAND

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	City of Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Woodhall House, Colinton, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	WWH12
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Connolly
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	(Connolly Heritage Consultancy).
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Building Survey
NMRS NO(S):	NT16NE 111
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	House and Tower – 16 th century - present
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Phasing of structure
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 19729 68348
START DATE (this season)	1 st April 2011
END DATE (this season)	1 st March 2013
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Prior to the development of the upper floor of Woodhall House and the potential for harling of the structure a building appraisal was undertaken to retrieve evidence that may have been affected during works.</p> <p>The fabric of the building that will be impacted by building work dates primarily to the 19th century when a major refurbishment was undertaken. The entire roof structure and all the upper rooms have been altered at this time.</p> <p>The repointing of the exterior and the discussion on re-harling the exterior wall surfaces gave valuable insights into the structural history of the building, including and understanding of the phased alterations dating to the 1550s, 1630s, 1700 and 1820s.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	Principal Elevation of Woodhall House. Phased.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Connolly Heritage Consultancy
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Connolly Heritage Consultancy Old Schoolrooms, Luggate Burn Whittingehame East Lothian, EH41 4QA
EMAIL ADDRESS:	info@bajr.org
ARCHIVE (intended/deposited)	LOCATION RCAHMS , Connolly Heritage Consultancy



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WHH12_02.JPG



WHH12_03.JPG



WHH12_04.JPG



WHH12_05.JPG



WHH12_06.JPG



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