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Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

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Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording

Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**21 Melville Street, Edinburgh
Historic Building Survey**

**Data Structure Report
No. 1771**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an historic building survey undertaken at 21 Melville Street, Edinburgh (NGR: NT 243 737) during April 2010. The work was commissioned by Axis Mason.
- 1.1.2 A proposed development at 21 Melville Street includes the demolition of a stone built lean-to structure that adjoins the rear of the building and construction of a new mews building at the rear of the plot. The historic building survey was required by John Lawson of City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service (CECAS). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was produced by CFA and agreed by John Lawson.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 21 Melville Street is a Grade A listed building and lies within part of an extensive classical terrace designed by Robert Brown in 1814. Melville Street forms the central axis of the Walker Estate residential scheme and forms an integral part of this section of Edinburgh's New Town. The proposed development area also lies within the UNESCO World Heritage Site and as such is recognised for its international importance in terms of built heritage and archaeology.

1.3 Objectives

- 1.3.1 The project's aims were:
- To carry out a rapid desk-based assessment and place the survey area in its historical context.
 - To carry out a Level 1 standing building survey of all elevations to be affected by down takings.
 - To produce a data structure report outlining the results of the work.

2. METHODS

2.1 General

2.1.1 CFA follows the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance and Code of Conduct.

2.2 Desk-based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was conducted prior to fieldwork, in order to collate relevant information on the historic development of the proposed development area. Sources consulted included:

- *National Monuments Record of Scotland*. All relevant records were checked and bibliographic sources followed up.
- Historic Scotland's Statutory List was consulted to extract the relevant architectural details.
- *Early map coverage for the area*. An examination of all the Ordnance Survey Large Scale Town Plan (1848-92); and subsequent editions was made, together with any other readily available cartographic information on pre-recent land use in the project area.

2.3 Historic Building Survey

Lean-to building

2.3.1 A Level 1 Building Survey (English Heritage 2006) was carried out on the lean-to building. All elevations of this feature were photographed. A narrative on the building's character, form and any visible construction phases visible in the fabric were recorded.

2.3.2 The position of the lean-to building in relation to the main rear elevation was recorded and annotated on the architect's drawing (Fig. 3).

2.3.3 CFA uses a Nikon D100 Professional Digital SLR for historic building recording.

Car park boundary walls

2.3.4 An appropriate photographic record was made of external elevations of the car-park boundary wall especially the section that will be most affected by the construction of the new two storey building. Any breaks in build or other features were noted. A brief description on the length, height and coping materials used in the wall were included to support the survey.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Desk Based Assessment

NMRS, SMR and Statutory List

- 3.1.1 21 Melville Street is Category A listed (HB No. 29324). The listing includes the entire classical terrace numbers 1-41 (odd numbers) Melville Street.
- 3.1.2 The National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) holds record NT27SW 1901. This record consists of 1 photograph and 1 set of architectural prints and drawings.
- 3.1.3 No information was held by the SMR.

Cartographic

- 3.1.4 Melville Street is depicted on the 1832 Great Reform Act Plans and Reports map. The 1870-92 Ordnance Survey Town Plans (Fig. 2) and the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map show the same layout of 21 Melville Street as today, including the recessed shed separating the lean-to from the back of the main building, described below.

3.2 Historic Building Survey

- 3.2.1 The lean-to structure lies to the back of 21 Melville Street and is aligned 90° to the terrace. It forms a lean-to against the west boundary wall and is linked to the main building by a small recessed shed. The back of 21 Melville Street forms a linear plot extending to the north and is bounded on either side by sandstone walls (Fig. 11).

Lean-to Structure

- 3.2.2 The structure forms an exterior shed or outhouse (Fig. 4). It is ashlar built throughout with a shallow single pitched roof covered with bitumous felt, and features a door on the east elevation and a window on the north elevation.
- 3.2.3 The east elevation (Fig. 5) measures 5140mm wide by 2015mm and forms the front of the structure. It has quoins at the corners of the building and the doorframe, although their use most likely stems from decorative rather than structural demands as the ashlar coursing used for the main wall structure is very regular and thus stable. Some of the stones used have a variety of stugging and droving patterns, although together they do not form any pattern. The door is timber and set in a timber frame, and measures 2000mm high and 910mm wide. The top of the elevation is finished with a black painted timber barge board and plastic roan gutter.
- 3.2.4 The north elevation (Fig. 6) faces forms the gable end and measures 2480mm wide. It has a centrally placed window containing a sash and case window.

The sandstone used in the build is a mix of pale and reddish stone, again with random stugging and droving on some stones. It abuts the west boundary wall.

- 3.2.5 The south elevation has a chamfered corner with the east elevation and is of the same ashlar build as the rest of the structure. It is featureless save for its relationship with the shed, described below.
- 3.2.6 The lean-to is joined to the rear of the main building by a small shed built against the west wall and recessed between the lean-to and the main building (Fig. 2, 7). It comprises an asymmetric ashlar lintel which abuts the main building to the south and is keyed into the south elevation of the lean-to (Fig. 8). An asymmetric timber doorframe and door forms the front of the shed. The interior of the shed is timber lined to the height of the door.
- 3.2.7 The roof of the building is single pitched and is covered with bituminous felt and edged with large sandstone skews including a socketed base skew. The west car park wall forms the rear of the lean-to, and has been heightened above the roof and topped with large skews. A mushroom chimney cover exits through the roof.

Car Park Walls

- 3.2.8 The car park walls bound the garden plot to the rear and extend for 27.5m north from the main building to Melville Street Lane (Fig. 11). The two walls differ in build, and both have damage to their north end.
- 3.2.9 The east wall is 1800mm high and is random rubble coursed, using large rough hewn sandstone blocks with discontinuous string courses (Fig. 9). It is mortar bonded with some concrete repointing. The remains of a return are visible at the north end where the wall abuts the lane, built of rough sandstone quoins. The wall is capped by 65mm thick sandstone slabs.
- 3.2.10 The west wall is 1900mm high and is built from random rubble courses set between regular rough hewn sandstone courses and capped with identical slabs to the east wall. The north end is mostly demolished. A wall forming a partial northern boundary adjoins the remains of the west wall (Fig. 10). It is built of random rubble coursed sandstone and has been incorporated into later raised flower beds and car parking bays which run down the side of the west wall.

4. SUMMARY

- 4.1 A Level 1 Standing Building Survey has been carried out on the lean-to structure and car park walls at the back of 21 Melville Street, Edinburgh.
- 4.2 The lean-to structure and the shed appear contemporary, and both post-date the construction of the walls and the main building, although their depiction on early town plans would suggest they were built shortly after completion of the Melville Street terrace.
- 4.3 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS).
- 4.4 A summary statement of the results of the evaluation, to be submitted for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 2010* and OASIS, will be sufficient to disseminate the results of the work.

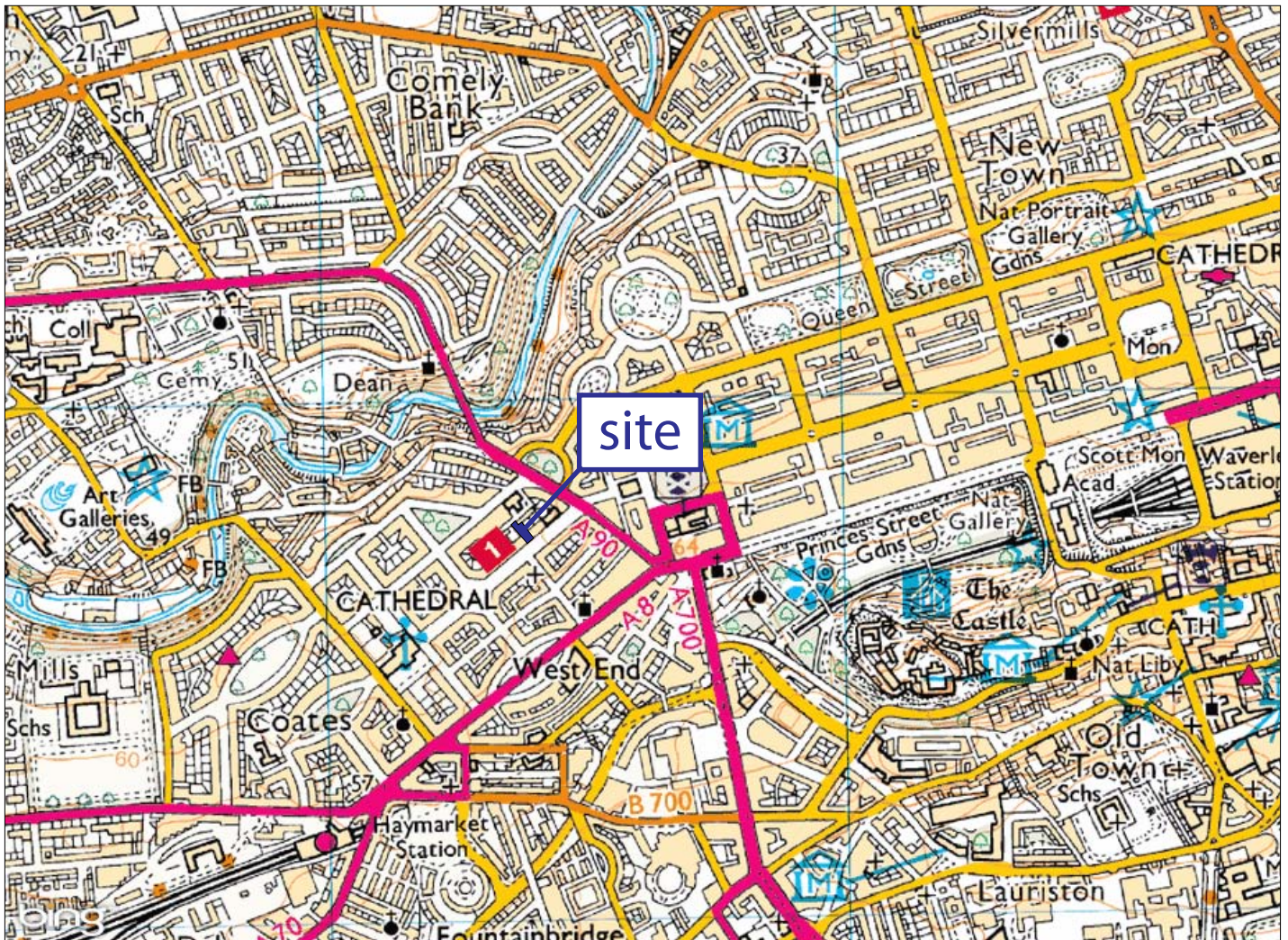
APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Digital Photo Register

Photo No.	Description	From
1 -2	General view of lean-to	NE
3	Detail of socketed skew	N
4	Detail of stonework	N
5	Detail of lean-to structure's join with west garden wall	N
6	North elevation window detail	N
7-12	Detail of shed	E
13	Oblique view of lean-to, east elevation	SE
14-16	East elevation, lean-to	E
17	General view of carpark from Melville Street Lane	N
18-19	Detail of quoins at north end of east wall	W
20-25	East wall of carpark	NW
26-27	West wall of carpark	NE
28-29	North end of west wall showing damage, return and raised flower beds	N
30-31	Detail of west wall	NE
32	East wall	SW
33-35	West wall	SE
36	East wall	S
37	Detail of west wall return and raised flower bed	N
38-42	Detail of north elevation, lean-to structure	N

Appendix 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh, City of
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	21 Melville Street
PROJECT CODE:	VILL
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Stuart Mitchell
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	CFA Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Survey
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SW 1901
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Terrace
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 243 737
START DATE (this season)	April 2010
END DATE (this season)	April 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A Level 1 standing building survey was carried out on a lean-to structure and garden walls at the rear of 21 Melville Street prior to its demolition and redevelopment.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	N/A
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Axis Mason
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	The Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh, East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
EMAIL ADDRESS:	cfa@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	National Monuments Record for Scotland (NMRS) City of Edinburgh Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)



Key:



Fig. No: 1

Revision:

Client: Axis Mason

Title:

Location map

Project:

21 Melville Street, Edinburgh

Scale:



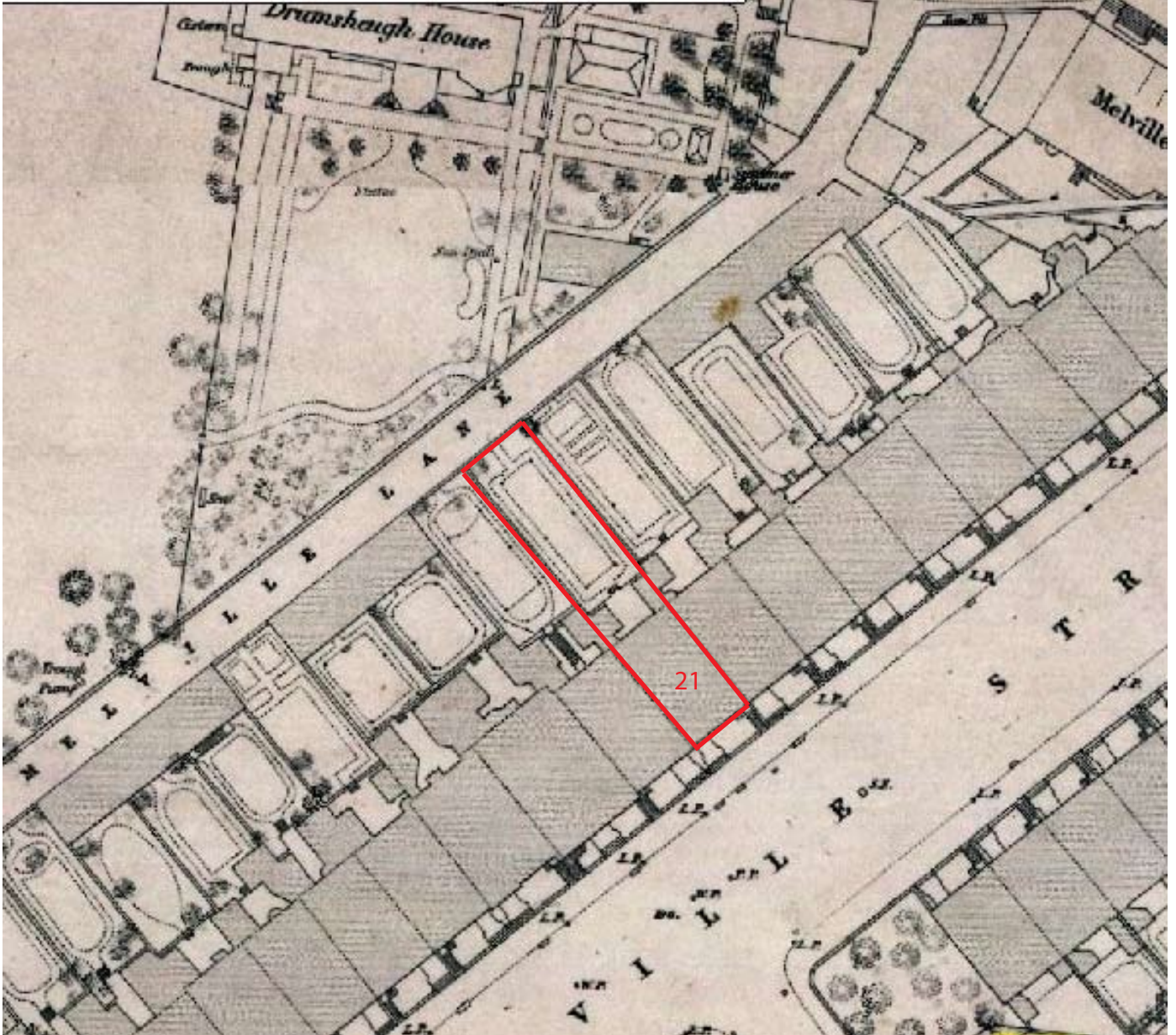
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Key:
 21 Melville Street

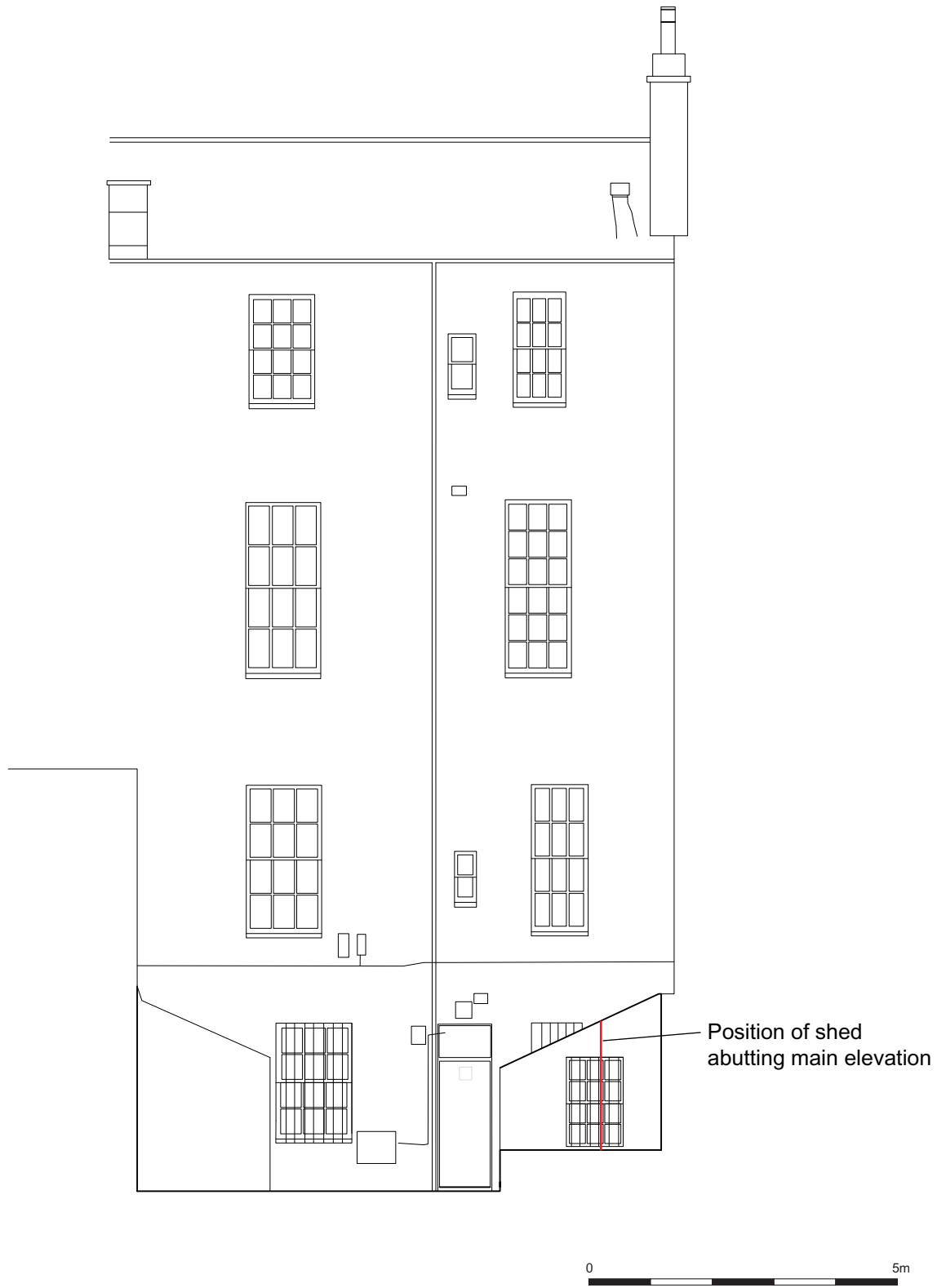
Fig. No: 2 Revision: Client: Axis Mason

Title:
 Detail of Ordnance Survey large scale Town Plan 1848-72

Project:
 21 Melville Street, Edinburgh



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Key:

Fig. No: **3**

Revision:

Client: **Axis Mason**

Title:

Rear elevation showing position of shed

Project:

21 Melville Street, Edinburgh



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Fig 4. General shot of lean-to



Fig 5. East elevation of lean-to


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	Project:	21 Melville Street, Edinburgh				
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Fig 6. North elevation of lean-to



Fig 7 East elevation of shed


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	Project:	21 Melville Street, Edinburgh				
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Fig 8. Detail of shed lintel



Fig 9. Bounding wall on east side of plot



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	Project:	21 Melville Street, Edinburgh				
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Fig 10. Bounding wall and flower beds on west side of plot



Fig 11. View of plot from rear of building

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	Project:	21 Melville Street, Edinburgh				
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