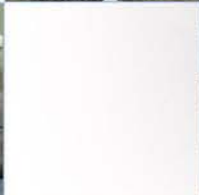


Nos 157 – 159 Lanark Road West, Currie,  
Edinburgh

Historic Building Recording  
& Archaeological Evaluation Report

AOC 22510  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Nos 157 – 159 Lanark Road West, Currie, Edinburgh

### Historic Building Recording & Archaeological Evaluation Report

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<b>On Behalf of:</b>	<b>Firstcall Home Assist 4C New Mart Road Edinburgh EH14 1RL</b>
<b>National Grid Reference (NGR):</b>	<b>NT 18428 67829</b>
<b>AOC Project No:</b>	<b>22510</b>
<b>Planning Application No:</b>	<b>12/00675/FUL/CON</b>
<b>OASIS No:</b>	<b>159117</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Diana Sproat</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>

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

**Author: Diana Sproat**

**Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Approved by: Martin Cook**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013**

**Draft/Final Report Stage: Draft**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2013**

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## SUMMARY

*AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Firstcall Home Assist to undertake a Level 2 historic building survey of two 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages and an archaeological evaluation after their demolition located at 157 – 159 Lanark Road West, Edinburgh as part of a planning condition on a new development.*

*The two cottages were constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the easternmost a two-storey three-bay cottage, the westernmost a single-storey cottage. Both have been compromised by the addition between and behind them of a 20<sup>th</sup> century nursing home and no original features apart from the main structure of the buildings appeared to have survived, having been severely compromised by the nursing home renovations.*

*The archaeological evaluation did not expose any archaeological features or finds.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 AOC Archaeology Group was commissioned by Firsthome Call Assist to undertake an historic building survey of two 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages, and an evaluation after their demolition, at 157 - 159 Lanark Road West, Currie, Edinburgh. The work is part of a planning condition on the consent on the demolition of the buildings in advance of new development (Ref: 12/00675/FUL/CON).

### 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The two cottages were located to the south of Lanark Road West at NGR: NT 18428 678298 ([Figure 1](#)). They were later compromised and incorporated into a modern nursing home which forms a large rectangular block behind them and between them. To the east and west is residential development and across the road to the north is Currie Church and the Bank of Scotland, renovated from a former 19<sup>th</sup> century building. The south of the development area steeps down considerably forming a near sheer drop down to a small bank adjacent to the water of Leith.

## 2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the historic building recording was to create a 'preservation by record' of the cottages prior to demolition through written, photographic and drawn record.
- 2.2 The objective of the archaeological evaluation was to understand the nature and extent of any archaeological remains identified beneath the cottages and within the development area and record as necessary prior to development.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

### 3.1 Archive research

- 3.1.1 A basic map-regression exercise was undertaken using all available publicly accessible maps with a background history of the immediate settlement of Currie to place the cottages in their historical context.

### 3.2 Written and photographic survey

- 3.2.1 A written record of the cottages was undertaken in the form of notes commenting on the condition, construction, materials, architectural character and anything else pertinent to the historical record. This was supplemented by a general and detailed photographic record of the buildings in black and white print and colour digital using a 35mm SLR and digital SLR respectively, A 2m/1m ranging pole was used for scale where access allowed. A register of all photographs taken can be found in Appendix 1, and a selection of digital shots have been used as [Plates](#) for this report.

### 3.3 Drawn survey

- 3.3.1 A floor plan and elevations survey of the cottages already existed in both the historical record and as part of the client's application, and hence these have been reproduced as part of this report as [Figures 5 - 10](#).

### 3.4 Archaeological evaluation

- 3.4.1 The archaeological evaluation required that an area comprising 50m<sup>2</sup> of the development area was to be evaluated and this was using a 360° excavator with 2m wide ditching bucket after the demolition of the cottages down to the floor slab. Given the presence of the post-demolition rubble on site, together with the sheer drop to the south side of the site effectively inhibiting excavation there, the two trenches were located to the north of the development area (see [Figure 11](#)).
- 3.4.4 The trenches were excavated in spits down to the natural subsoil and recorded to AOC's standard operating procedures.

### 3.5 Archiving

- 3.5.1 The project has been recorded in the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) site (Ref: 159117). An entry will also be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES) publication for inclusion in the forthcoming 2013 volume (see [Appendix 2](#)). A CD of the original photographs, together with a hard copy and a pdf digital version on CD of the report and jpgs, as well as the digital CAD files, has also been submitted to the National Archives of Scotland held at the RCAHMS building at Salisbury Place, Edinburgh and also to the local HER. For all archiving queries, please contact [admin@aocarchaeology.com](mailto:admin@aocarchaeology.com).

## 4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 There is evidence of some prehistoric activity in the vicinity of Currie in the form of a Bronze Age razor found at the nearby Kinleith Mill (NMRS Ref: NT16NE 2) in 1862 (dated to around 1800BC) and there have also been some stone cists roughly dated to 500BC located in Blinkbonny. Currie is first mentioned in the medieval period as charters from the 14<sup>th</sup> and early 15<sup>th</sup> century identify the Currie area as being favourite hunting grounds of the barony at Edinburgh Castle. The medieval settlement centred around Currie Kirk to the south of the (now) A70 (Lanark Road West). The present Kirk was built in 1785, although is thought to lie on the remains of and incorporate part of the medieval church which dates to the late 13<sup>th</sup> century and was dedicated to St Kentigern, although it could date as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century (John Lawson, pers comm). Currie Bridge (or 'brig') is also medieval in origins, with dates ranging from 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century for its establishment, although given the early dates of the church, a bridge, or succession of rebuilds, must have been established here possibly much earlier than that.
- 4.2 By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, Currie had established itself as a small farming community. William Roy's Military Map of Scotland dating to 1747 – 55 also details the settlement at Currie in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century ([Figure 2](#)). Currie has been established around the main east/west thoroughfare (to become Lanark Road West) with Currie Kirk to the south in enclosed land.
- 4.3 Nos 157 – 159 are shown as one block of two cottages by at least the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as they are present on the 1852 Ordnance Survey map (circled on [Figure 3](#)). By the 1923 Ordnance Survey map, however, they are shown as part of a much longer row of terraced housing (see [Figure 3](#)). Much larger expansion of the suburbs along this road took place in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, much of it in the latter half, which saw the development of many of the mills along this route and expansion and extension of the 19<sup>th</sup> century properties.



Figure 2: Extract from William Roy's Military Map of Scotland, ca 1747 - 55

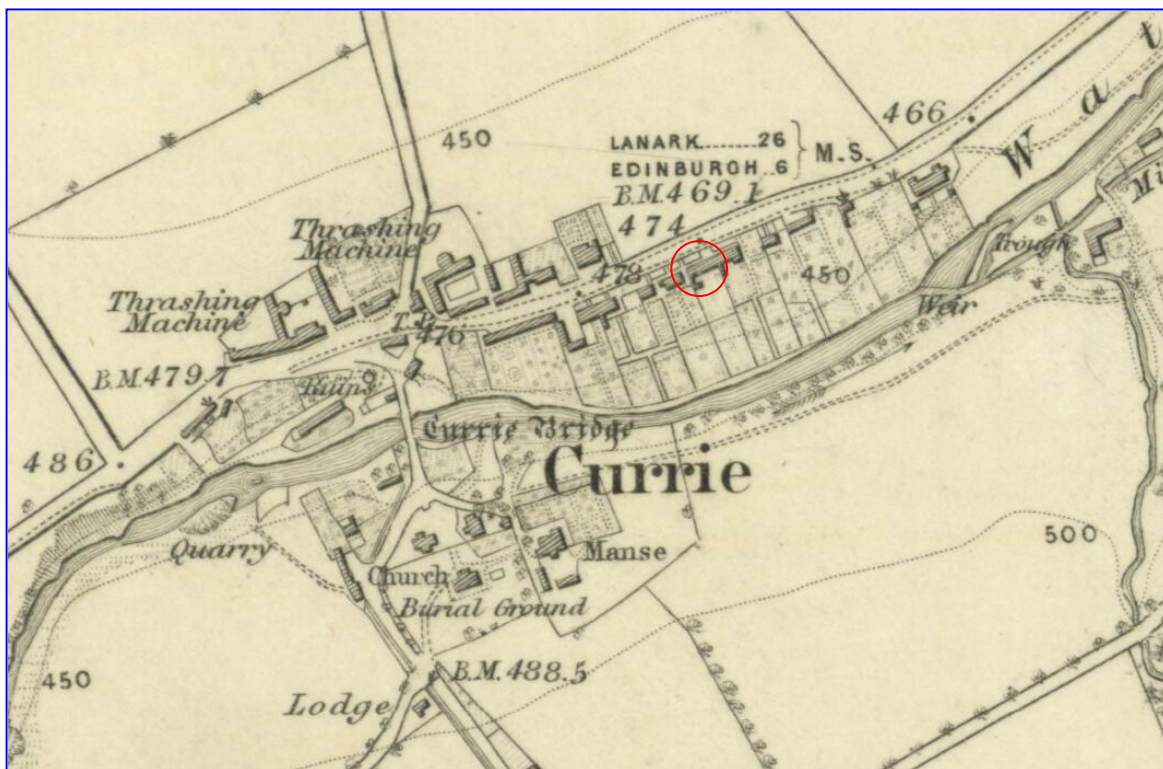


Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1852



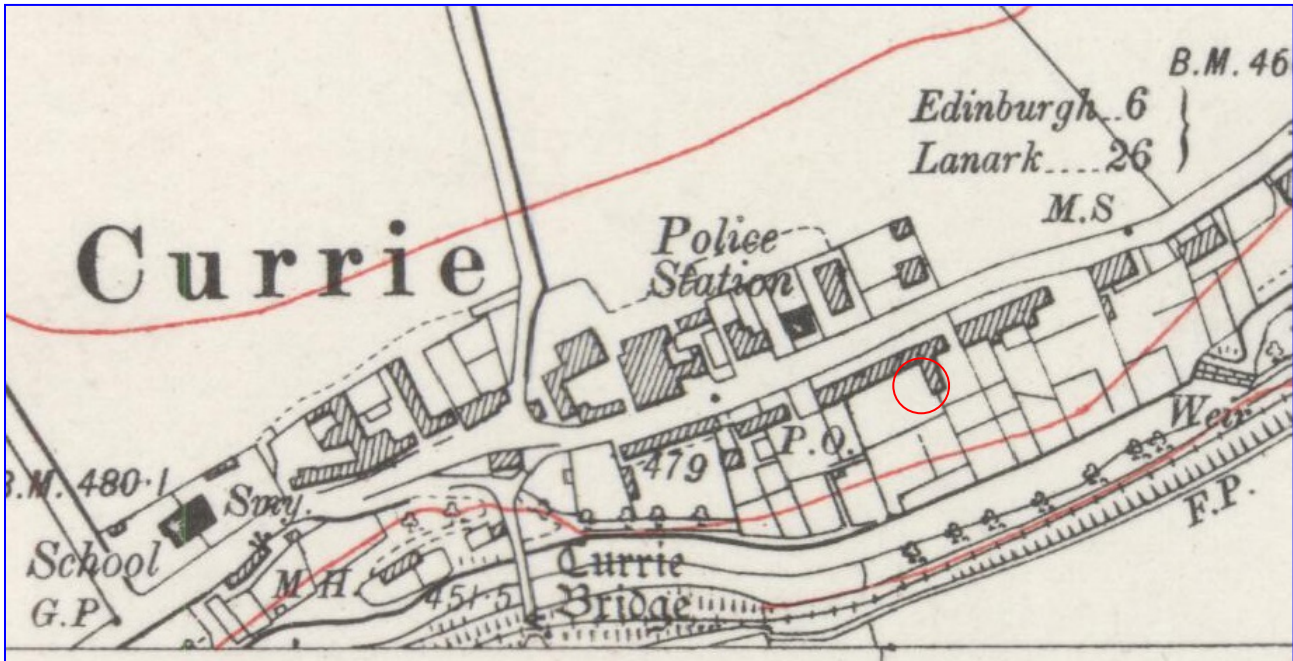


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1923

## 5 ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Both cottages had been severely compromised by the later 20<sup>th</sup> century addition of the central 'waiting room' area belonging to the buildings' functions as a one-time doctor's surgery (demolished at the time of survey). No 157 had a large extension to its rear and west side in a roughcast render and No 159 had a smaller rectangular extension to its rear. After being abandoned of 10 years, the cottages were also in a very poor state. The roof of No 159 had been completely removed – as had the floor – and the interior of No 157 was only accessible on the ground floor level, the upper level floorboards having been completely removed. All windows in the cottages had been replaced with UPVC.

### 5.2 No 157 Lanark Road West

5.2.1 No 157 was a three-bay two-storey cottage in coursed stone chisel-dressed build with comb-dressed pronounced lintels and raised skewes with moulded skew blocks (Figures 5 - 8; Plates 1 & 2). The front façade to the north had a main front door to the central bay with projecting moulded stone doorcase (Plate 3). To the west was a bay window and to the east a double window. To the rear, the south elevation was largely compromised by the later roughcast rendered extension and to the west side was a single window with comb-dressed surround (Plates 4 & 5). The east elevation was plain apart from a small blocked doorway with adjacent flue box (Plates 6 & 7). The west elevation had been compromised by the central addition, the plasterboard still surviving on this wall at ground floor level (see Plate 2).

5.2.2 The upper floor level is likely to be a later addition to the small cottage, with stone rubble to the first floor build and wide chimney breasts to the east and west gables to an almost flat roof. The upper floor windows took the form of projecting dormers in the steep-sided slate roof.

- 5.2.3 Internally, the original single-storey cottage consisted of four rooms and a rear stairwell (Figures 9 & 10). The interior had undergone extensive renovation during its time as a nursing home/doctor's surgery and this, coupled with the poor state of dereliction of the property, meant that very few original or early features had survived. The original entrance (door replaced) was to the north wall (Plate 8) leading straight through to the main stairwell to the centre of the south wall (Plate 9). The stairwell survived with cast-iron decorated balusters and a plain (relatively modern) wooden rail (Plate 10).
- 5.2.4 The rest of the rooms were similar in furnishing and state of dereliction with the double window to the north room (157/2) (Plate 11), single window to the south-west room (Plate 12) and a rear bathroom with single window (converted from a doorway, as seen from the exterior) to the south-east (Plate 13).
- 5.2.5 The upper level was inaccessible due to the removal of all the timber floorboards (Plate 14). As with the ground floor, all original/early features had been removed as part of the nursing home renovations.

### 5.3 No 159 Lanark Road West

- 5.3.1 No 159 was a three-bay single-storey cottage of coursed dressed stonework, the original roof (now gone) with raised skewes rising to large stone chimney breasts to each gable (Figures 5 – 8; Plates 15 & 16). The north elevation had a central doorway with plain moulded doorcase, timber door with knocker and lights above (Plates 17 & 18). This was flanked by single windows to the east and west bays (Plate 19). A large rectangular bathroom suite had been added to the rear south elevation in a roughcast render as part of the nursing home renovations (see Plate 16). As with No 157, the east elevation had been plasterboarded with the addition of the central 'waiting room' block, now demolished (see Plates 16 & 17).
- 5.3.2 The interior of the cottage was largely inaccessible as the entirety of the floorboards had been removed. As with No 157, the interior had been modernly furnished as part of the nursing home renovations and the windows had timber panelling to the interior splays (Figures 9 & 10; Plates 20 & 21).

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation comprises two trenches located to the north of the development area, both of which had a large amount of hard-core and rubble (between 0.30m – 0.50m in depth) overlying a compact dark orangish stoney clay natural subsoil (Figure 11; Plate 22). Towards the south end of the trench, the hardcore became deeper where the ground sloped downwards to the south. A single concrete wall was located to the north of Trench 1 and to the south was the brick enclosure for the modern drainage (not excavated).



Plate 22: General view of Trench 1 from the north-west

## 7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Although the original character of the cottages was visible, they had both been severely compromised by the nursing home renovations and the severe state of neglect that they had suffered due to their lack of use in the past decade. Apart from the main structure itself, little if anything remained of the original fittings to the cottages (such as fireplaces) had survived and were likely removed as part of the renovations. The features that looked much earlier – the panelling to the windows in 159 and the iron balustrade in 157, were likely added at a much later date than the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The upper floor of No 159 is also likely a later addition to the building's history as is, possibly, the bay window to the front west bay.
- 7.2 The cottages form part of an array of domestic dwellings along this section of Lanark Road West and seem to mimic, or be contemporary with, the adjacent cottages as No 161 & 163. Without sufficient detailed mapping evidence prior to the 1850s, the cottages can only really be given an early 19<sup>th</sup> century date and certainly appear to fit into the typical character and style of cottages of that period.
- 7.3 After the demolition of the buildings, the ground appeared to comprised mostly rubble and hardcore build-up, becoming deeper to the south, overlying natural subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were located and therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required, although this must be confirmed by CECAS.

## 8 CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 This report has successfully recorded the remains of the original character and extent of the 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages on the site and no further historic building recording or archaeological investigations are recommended.

## 9 REFERENCES

### 9.1 Bibliography and bibliographical references

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

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

### 9.2 Cartographic References

ca. 1747 – 55	William Roy	<i>Military Map of Scotland</i>
1852	Ordnance Survey	<i>Edinburghshire Sheet 5</i>
1923	Ordnance Survey	<i>Linlithgowshire Sheet nIX</i>

## Appendix 1: Photographic Register

### Black & White Print (Film # 1) & Colour Digital

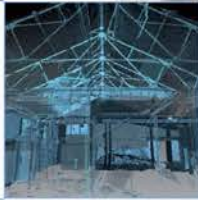
Frame	Building/Room	Description	Taken From	Date
1	-	General view of the nursing home block to the S	NE	13/09/2013
2	No 159	Detail of E-most chimney	SE	13/09/2013
3	No 159	Detail looking up at the W gable (interior side) upper level with chimney	SE	13/09/2013
4 - 5	No 157	General view	SW	13/09/2013
7	-	General view looking at nursing home block to S	NNW	13/09/2013
6 & 8	No 159	Detail of the door knocker on the central door on the N elevation	NE	13/09/2013
9	No 159	Detail of the central doorcase in the N elevation	NE	13/09/2013
10	No 159	Detail of the window in the E-most bay of the N elevation	NNE	13/09/2013
11	No 159	General view of the N elevation	NE	13/09/2013
12	No 157	Detail of the window and flue box on the E elevation	E	13/09/2013
13 & 14	No 157	General view of the E Gable	SSE	13/09/2013
15 & 16	No 157	General view of the W elevation	S	13/09/2013
17 & 18	No 157	Detail of the window to the south elevation, W side	S	13/09/2013
19 & 20	No 157	General view	NW	13/09/2013
21 & 22	No 157	Detail of doorcase in the central bay of the N elevation	NE	13/09/2013
23 & 24	No 157	General view of N elevation	NE	13/09/2013
25	Room 159/2	General view of the S wall showing window	NE	13/09/2013
26	Room 159/2	Detail of collapsed timber fire surround in room, probably not original or particularly early	NE	13/09/2013
27	Room 159/1	General view of N wall showing window	SE	13/09/2013
28	Room 157/5	Detail of the balustrade	SE	13/09/2013
29	Room 157/4	General view of the E wall showing window	W	13/09/2013
30	Room 157/5	General view of the front entrance in the N wall	S	13/09/2013
31	Room 157/3	General view of the N wall looking at the double window	S	13/09/2013
32	Room 157/5	General view looking at stair	N	13/09/2013
33	Room 157/2	General view looking at the S wall showing the window	NE	13/09/2013
34	157	General view looking up at first floor level from Room 57/1	SE	13/09/2013
35	Room 157/1	General view of north wall showing bay window	SE	13/09/2013
36		Registration	-	13/09/2013

### Digital (Evaluation)

Frame	Trench	Description	Taken From	Date
1 – 3	1	General view	N	24/09/2013
4	1	Detail of section on W side	NE	24/09/2013
5	1	Detail of section to W side showing deeper hardcore deposit	NE	24/09/2013
6	2	General view	W	24/09/2013

## Appendix 2: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland (DES) Entry

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	157 – 159 Lanark Road West
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 22510
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Diana Sproat
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Historic Building Recording
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Cottages
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR</b>	NT 18428 67829
<b>START DATE</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
<b>END DATE</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2013
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b>	None
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b>	AOC Archaeology were commissioned by Firsthome Call Assist to undertake an historic building survey of two 19 <sup>th</sup> century cottages, and an archaeological evaluation after their demolition, at 157 - 159 Lanark Road West, Currie, Edinburgh. The work as part of a planning condition on the consent to demolish the buildings in advance of new development comprising a single home. The cottages dated from the early – mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century. No archaeological features or finds were located as part of the evaluation, which comprised a 50m <sup>2</sup> area of the development area.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None.
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None.
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	City of Edinburgh Council
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION:</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS



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