

## 5. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS

There have been extensive works in the area of the New Street Gasworks. An archaeological watching brief identified 19th-century foundations (McCullagh & Gooder 1999), while an archaeological evaluation in 2000 identified a buried cultivation soil, containing ceramic artefacts dating between the 12th and 18th centuries (Gooder 2000). Excavation in late 2000 revealed buried garden or cultivation soils, with associated features, with artefacts indicating activity in this area from the 12th century AD onwards (*ibid*).

An archaeological evaluation at the former New Street Bus Depot after its demolition to floor slab level identified probable medieval/post-medieval buried soils, truncated by construction of the 19th-century gasworks; a subsequent watching brief identified remains of this gasworks (Engl et al 2006). Excavation and watching brief works at the New Street Bus Depot also recorded the remains of the former Edinburgh Gasworks and pockets of post-medieval soils (Wilson 2007; 2008f). AOC Archaeology Group has undertaken several further investigations in the area of the Caltongate Development (eg Wilson & Toolis 2008a; 2008b; Sproat & Toolis 2008; Engl et al 2013).

At the Tolbooth (located on the Canongate), excavation of the cellar area in 1988 uncovered floor layers and a number of cut features of varied date, including construction pits; a clay-lined water-tub; a wooden tub sunk into the floor, and part of a stone drain. A range of post-medieval pottery was recovered, including part of a mounted figure in glazed ceramic, dated to the later 16th century (Holmes 1988).

To the east of the Gasworks and Tolbooth Wynd, at 20 Calton Road, there have been several phases of archaeological work, including excavations in 2013 and 2014 associated with the PA1(C) area of the New Waverley development (Wilson 2008d; Engl forthcoming), revealing evidence from the initial cultivation of the Canongate 'backlands' in the 12th/13th centuries to the construction and subsequent development of the Canongate Poorhouse. A sequence of buried garden soils/middens relating to pre-18th-century activity was recorded, in addition to remains of a single burgrave

plot boundary and associated rig and furrow deposits. Burial remains relating to the graveyard of the Canongate Kirk, dating to between 1688 and 1775, were also recorded. These excavations represent an area on the periphery of the medieval Canongate Burgh, which remained in open cultivation from the 12th/13th century until its conversion into more formal use between the 14th and 17th centuries with the creation of burgrave plots. In this area, a lack of features typical of 'backland' activity and the presence of imported ceramics show that the Canongate remained the preserve of Edinburgh's wealthy mercantile elite until the economic decline of the mid to late 17th century. The Poorhouse, built in 1761 over the north edge of the Canongate Cemetery and used in the early 1870s as an epidemic hospital, was found to contain at least two phases of construction (Engl forthcoming). The results of archaeological works in areas PA1(A) and PA1(B) of the New Waverley development, where late post-medieval structures and deposits were recorded, are detailed in Appendix 1.

To the west of the former Gasworks site, archaeological works associated with the development of a hotel as part of the New Waverley development at East Market Street identified 'a substantial ditch feature likely relating to previously excavated ditches in the medieval burghs of Edinburgh and Canongate' (Lowther 2018: vi). Waterlogged deposits facilitated the survival of artefactual remains associated with two phases of this defensive feature – the late 12th–13th century when it was constructed and the latter half of the 15th century when it fell out of use (*ibid*). To the south-east of the Gasworks, Headland Archaeology undertook archaeological works at the 19th-century brewery of 160 Canongate/Sugarhouse Close/41, 49, 53 Holyrood Road (Wilson 2012). These archaeological works recorded multiple layers of garden soils, possibly associated with medieval and post-medieval activity. A large well was also recorded, perhaps the earliest feature on the site, and the remains of two stone walls may represent the location of a sugar refinery that existed on this site between 1752 and 1853 (*ibid*; Canmore ID 135131).