

COTAC Insight 2d: The Need to be Aware of the Built Heritage

Exploring ICOMOS Education and Training Guideline
(d): Find and absorb all available sources of
information relevant to the monument, ensemble or
site being studied

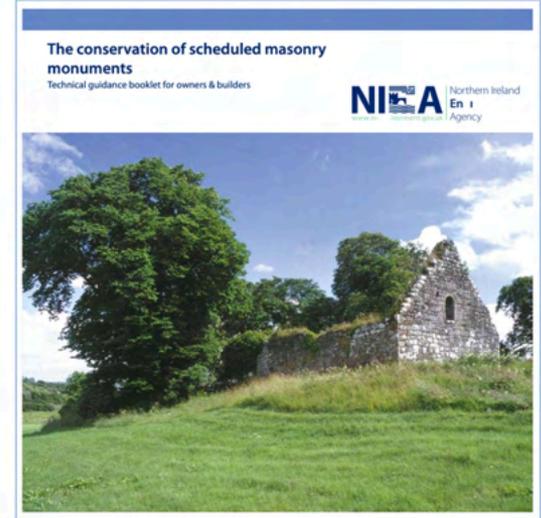
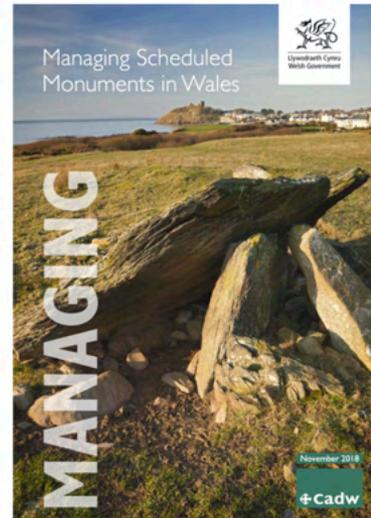
There are some 600,000 listed buildings of different categories across the UK: this in addition to 9,800 conservation areas and 200,000 scheduled monument entries in England; 8,000 scheduled monuments in Scotland; 4,000 in Wales and 16,000 identified historic monuments in Northern Ireland. Published guidance on the management of such scheduled sites offers much relevant information. See:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/scheduled-monuments-guide-for-owners-and-occupiers/guideforownersofscheduledmonuments/>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/2554/hes-internal-conservation-principles.pdf>

https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2019-05/20181112Managing_Scheduled_Monuments_in_Wales_ENG.pdf

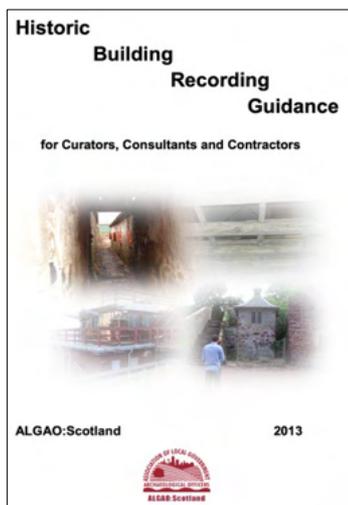
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/conservation-of-scheduled-masonry-monuments-09.pdf>



But, there are also some 6 million traditionally constructed buildings remaining across the UK. These have to contend with the same range of practical issues as those covered by heritage legislation; in addition, numerous 20th C structures also have a heritage value. Seeking relevant information from a wide variety of sources will therefore be required.

Survey and archival information sourcing for Buildings and Sites can include:

- Maps: Modern and Historical
- Gazetteers
- Inventories
- Photographs: Modern and Historical
- Etchings and Paintings
- Engravings and Drawings
- Literature Reviews
- Guide Books
- Technical Handbooks + Journals
- Building Accounts
- Title Deeds
- Sale Particulars
- Trade Directories + Catalogues
- Building Control Plans
- Google Earth and Streetview
- Etc. etc.



See:
https://www.algao.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ALGAO_Scotland_Buildings_Guidance_2013.pdf

Survey Type	Record	Written	Drawings	Photographic
Appraisal	Visual	Basic description Archive Assessment	Sketch and/or annotated ground/floor plan	General to complement and aid written descriptions
Basic	Visual	Basic description Archive Assessment	Sketch and annotated ground/floor plan Main elevations	General to complement and aid written descriptions
Enhanced	Descriptive	Enhanced description Detailed Archive Research	Annotated/measured phased ground/floor plan Annotated significant elevations (internal and external)	General to complement and aid written descriptions All major elevations and details of appropriate features
Detailed	Analytical	Fully enhanced description Detailed Archive Research Historical and landscape context of site examined	Measured phased ground/floor plans. measured significant elevations Details of all features and fabric described	General to complement and aid written descriptions All major elevations and details of appropriate features
Comprehensive	Comprehensive with synthetic analysis	Comprehensive description Comprehensive Archive Research Historical and landscape context of site examined Synthesis of recording results with comparison to other sites	All measured phased ground/floor plans. All measured elevations Details of all features and fabric described	Comprehensive coverage

Whilst amalgamating the outcomes of addressing Guidelines a), b) and c), Guideline d) aims to suggest a deeper archival search would be equally beneficial. This could include:

- sourcing the recent history from owners/occupiers/users
- consulting official lists and descriptions: both hard copy and digital
- undertaking detailed on-site survey work: both measured and digital
- compiling external illustrative resources of drawings and early photographs
- consulting early map editions and current internet 3D imagery
- compiling a current photographic record
- considering typologies and architectural guides

The following Image Set outlines an exemplar selection of related base-line imagery for the City of Edinburgh. A similar approach could be pursued elsewhere.



The Great Fire of Edinburgh was one of the most destructive in the history of the city. It started on Monday, 15 November 1824, and lasted five days, destroying 400 homes. The findings of a subsequent inquiry prompted the passing of a new regulation clarifying the role of the newly formed Fire Brigade (only 2 months before the fire) where the City Fire master (or, in his absence, his Deputy) was to be given complete command of all firefighting operations; a ruling subsequently adopted throughout Britain's fire services. After the damaged area had been cleared it allowed the building by 1829 of the Scottish Law Courts in Parliament Square, the layout of which is recorded on the OS detailed Town Plan of 1852.

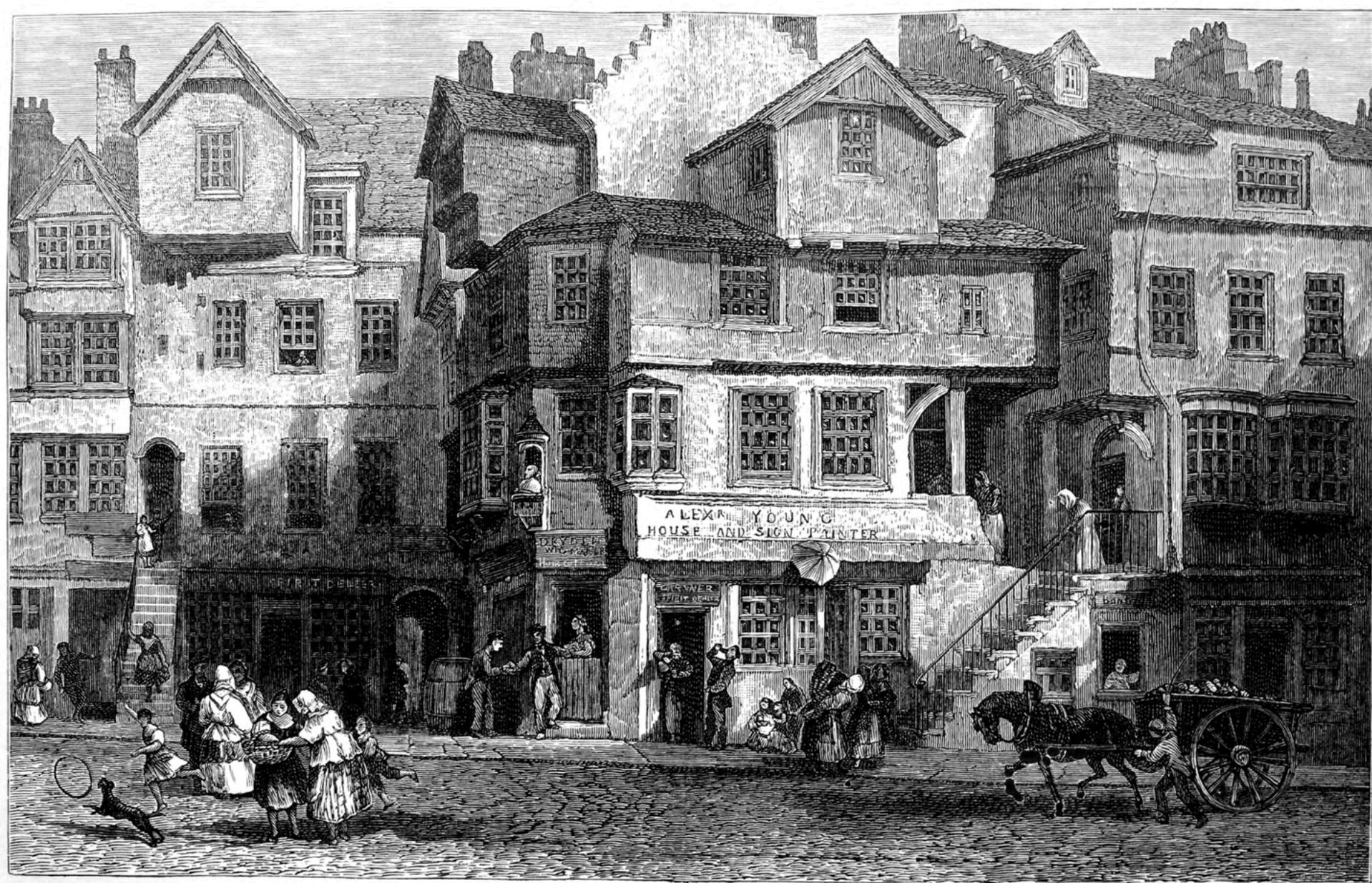




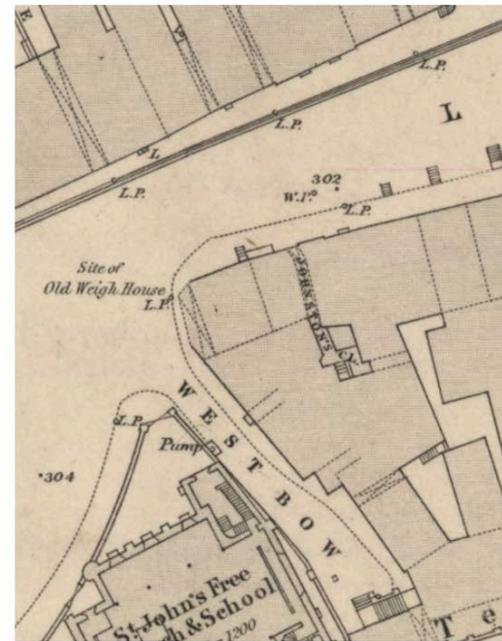
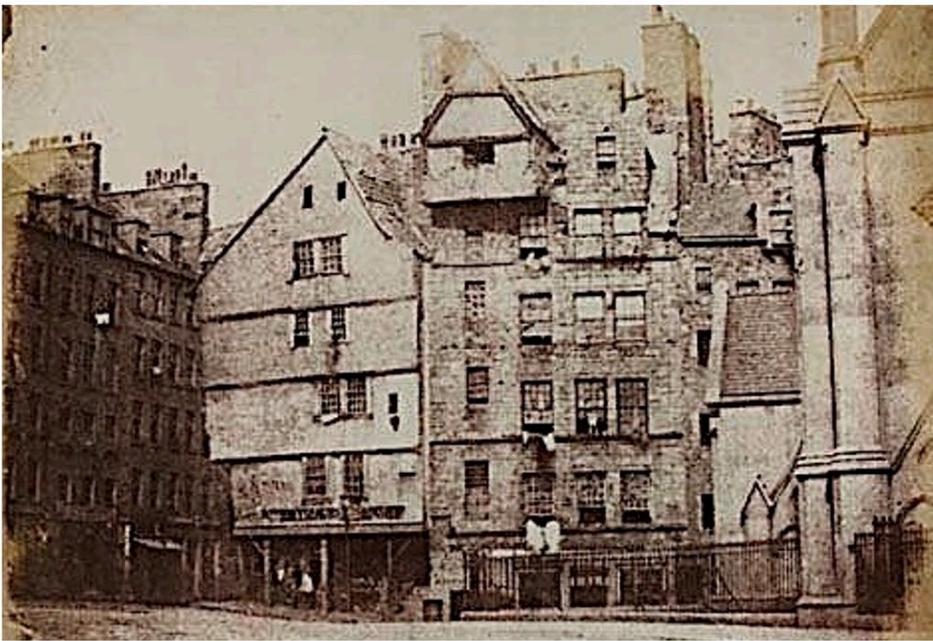
The area devastated by the 1824 fire and the surrounding narrow medieval Closes are obvious on this highly detailed OS Town Plan extract: Edinburgh 1852 - Sheet 35, at a scale of 1:500. A number of Town and Cities across the UK are fortunate to have been surveyed in this detail by the Ordnance Survey as a first edition. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland <https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>



Parliament Square, Edinburgh: © Google Earth 3D building and view screenshot. Compare with OS Sheet 35 1:500 Plan Extract of 1852 to reveal extent and degree of changes to the urban footprint.



John Knox's House (from a drawing published in 1838) is one of the oldest in Edinburgh, mostly from the mid-16th C and with parts dating to 1470. The ground floor has remnants of medieval 'luckenbooths', or locked booths, that were rented out as shops. The first archival mention of the building comes in a document dated 1525. It underwent restoration in the mid 19th C, opening in 1853 as a museum.



A jettied timber property at the Site of the Old Weigh House, West Bow ca.1838

OS Town Plan Edinburgh 1852 – Sheet 35
Scale 1:500



Replacement masonry Victorian Corner Blocks, West Bow:

OS Town Plan Edinburgh 1894 – III.7.20
Scale 1:500

Map extracts
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

<https://maps.nls.uk/index.html>



Appreciating buildings and sites in stereometric 3D imagery is not new, having first been established along with the birth of photography in 1838, with the matching pairs of images viewed through a variety of hand-held devices.

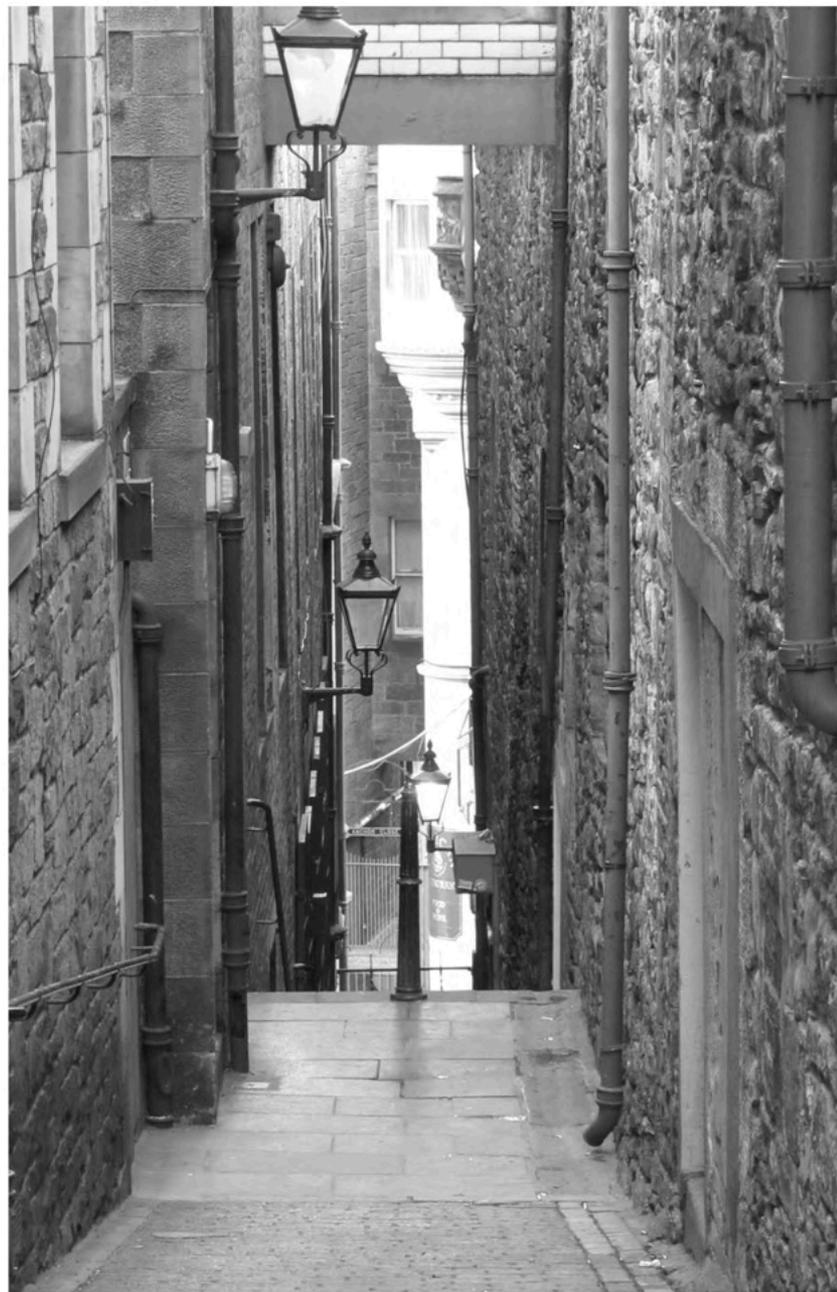
Where available, viewing such relevant Victorian era visual records can greatly add to an understanding of what physical external changes may have taken place on the building or site.



'Holmes Type Stereoscope' c.1905. © Science Museum Group collection. Creative Commons BY-NC-SA



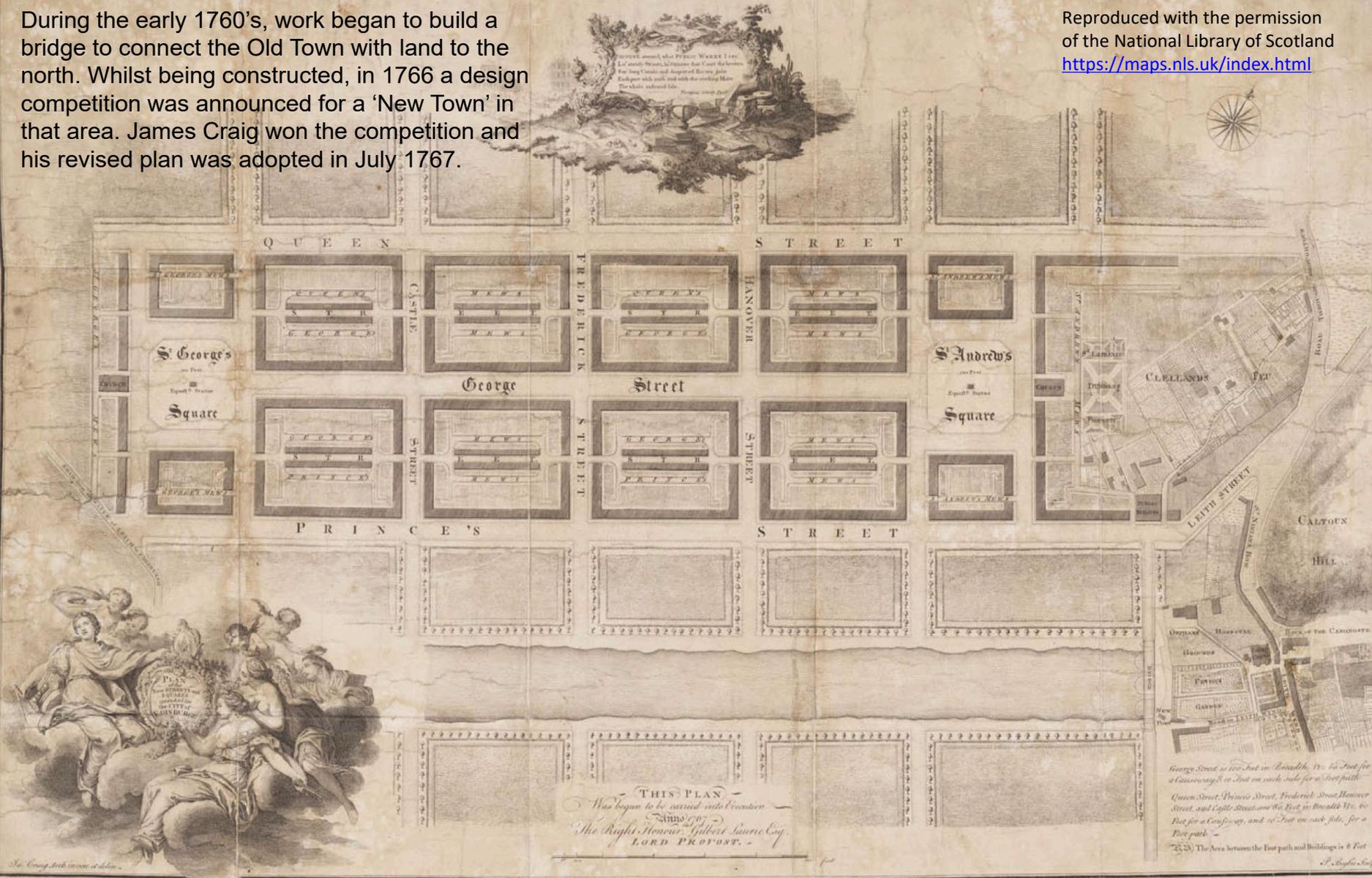
'Then and Now' comparison views can be revealing in recording changes that have taken place and, although caution needs to be exercised in the interpretation, supporting map evidence can be visually corroborative in analysis.



Fleshmarket Close (in 1845 and now) named after the meat market, led to Market Street and a slaughterhouse at the side of the Nor' Loch. Cockburn Street cut through the close alignment in the mid 1800's. The masonry buildings were built as high as 14 storeys tall.

During the early 1760's, work began to build a bridge to connect the Old Town with land to the north. Whilst being constructed, in 1766 a design competition was announced for a 'New Town' in that area. James Craig won the competition and his revised plan was adopted in July 1767.

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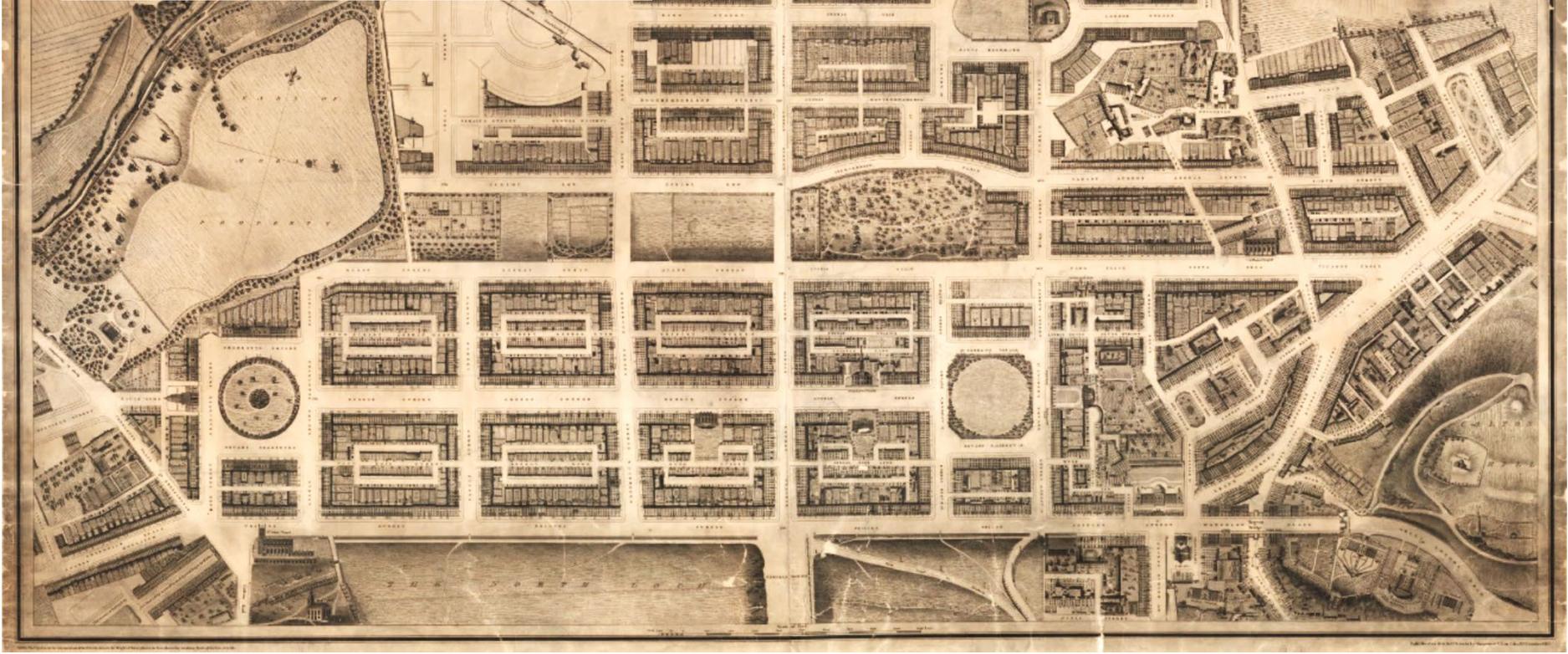


THIS PLAN
 Was begun to be carried into Execution
 Anno 1767
 By the Right-Honour. Gilbert Saurin Esq.
 LORD PROVOST.

George Street is 100 Feet in Breadth, 17 Feet for a Causeway & 10 Feet on each side for a Foot path—
 Queen Street, Prince Street, Frederick Street, Hanover Street, and Leith Street are 60 Feet in Breadth 17 Feet for a Causeway, and 10 Feet on each side for a Foot path—
 The Area between the Foot path and Buildings is 8 Feet

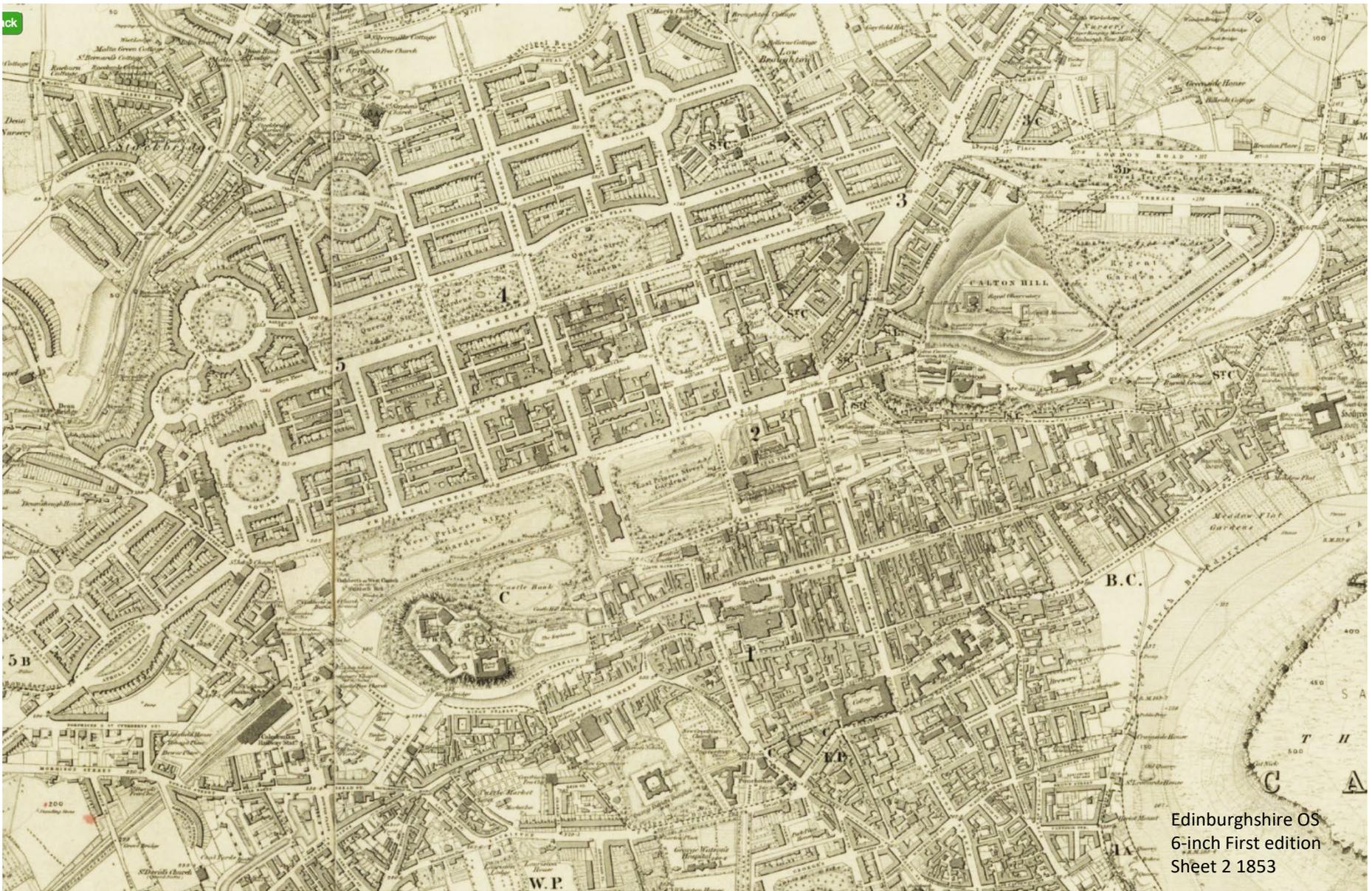
To His Sacred Majesty **GEORGE III.** - The Magnificent
 This PLAN of the New Streets and Squares, intended for His ancient CAPITAL of
 Liberty his People enjoy, under his mild and auspicious Government, IS, with the strongest Humility -
 Patron of Every **POLITE** and **LIBERAL**
 NORTH BRITAIN, One of the happy Consequences of the Peace, Security, and
 Inscribed By - His Majesty's Most devoted Servant and Subject
JAMES CRAIG.

Progress building the 'Earthen Mound' recorded in 1814



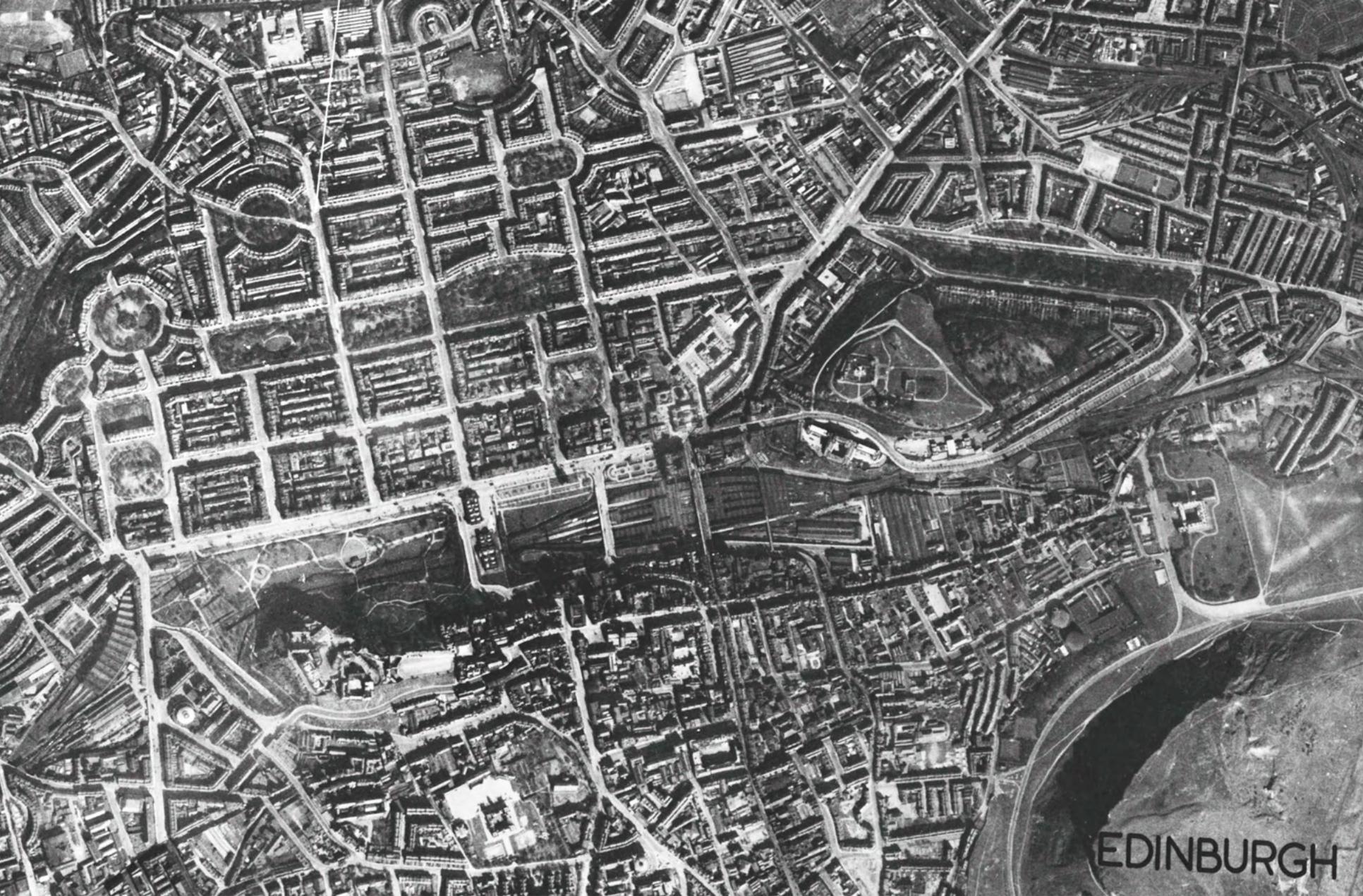
Period engravings can offer an insight to works that were occurring at the time, whilst Kirkwood's 1819 Plan and [Street] Elevations of the New Town of Edinburgh shows how the townscape was developing. See

<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74400075> Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland



A greater time-span of historic 2D information and developments is accessible through a comparison of variously dated, but similarly scaled, Ordnance Survey Maps from the 1850's, and other map category editions, many of which are accessible on-line. See <https://maps.nls.uk>

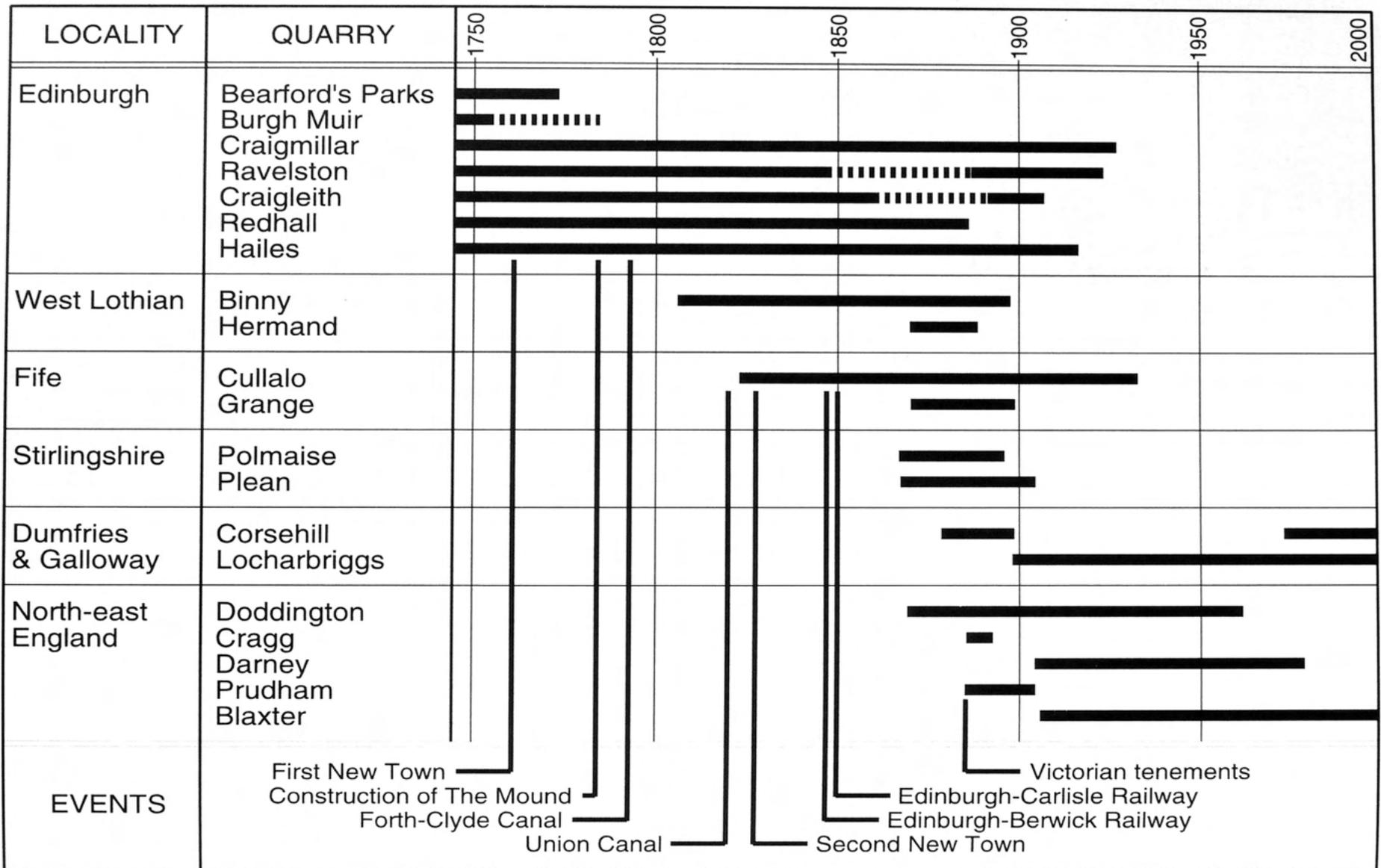
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In addition to comparing various same-scale map editions, reference to vertical aerial photography can add an additional perspective to the surveyed information. Much of the country was photographed by the RAF in the aftermath of WW2.

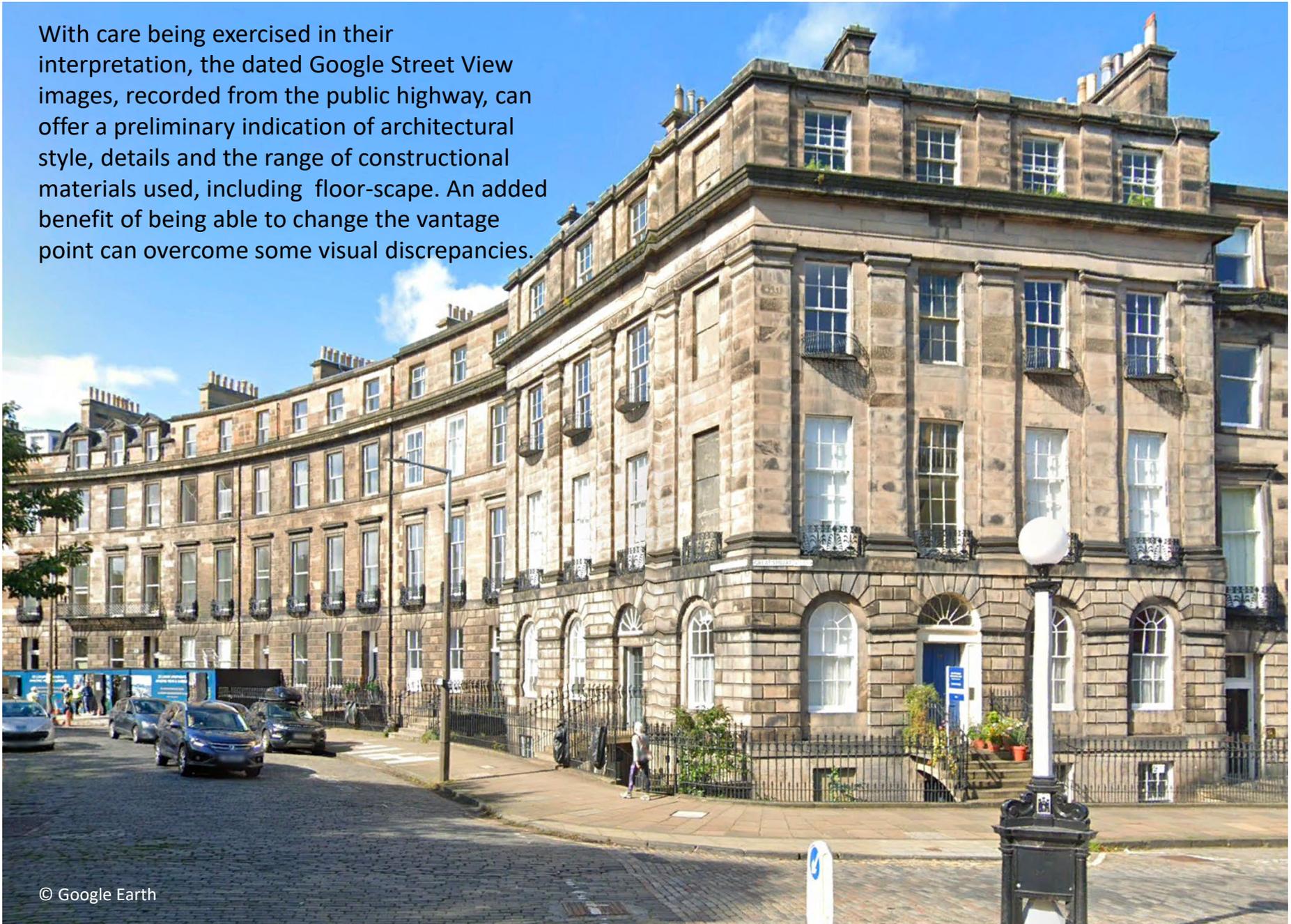


With the availability of Google Earth much additional recent information is freely available to download from the internet, making direct visual comparisons with early imagery is suited to understanding larger areas of interest, especially where previously recorded imagery is also available in the related timeline bar.



A chronological list of local and more distant operational quarry sources supplying building quality sandstone for the construction of the city of Edinburgh, with key related events. Many locations around the country now have similar information compiled and published.

With care being exercised in their interpretation, the dated Google Street View images, recorded from the public highway, can offer a preliminary indication of architectural style, details and the range of constructional materials used, including floor-scape. An added benefit of being able to change the vantage point can overcome some visual discrepancies.



In pursuing the need to appreciate 'Guideline (d) Find and absorb all available sources of information relevant to the monument, ensemble or site being studied', amongst other sources, accessing a number of UNESCO publications can be revealing as to the diversity of what might be considered and taken into account. See: <http://whc.unesco.org>

In addition a number of Guideline-specific URL links are offered on the COTAC Global website under the Menu tab 'Digital Bibliography' at 'd. Find sources of information'. See: http://www.cotac.global/digital_bib/

See Also
<https://le.ac.uk/history/outreach/besh/historical-research/using-maps>



Downloads <https://www.tsa-uk.org.uk/downloads/>

The Essential Guides

TSA produces Client Guides, Guidance Notes and briefing notes on various areas of surveying. These are available to download as pdf files.

These documents belong to TSA and must not be made available for download anywhere else.

TSA's Client Guides are primarily aimed at other professionals such as engineers, architects, planners and clients in general. They are not intended to go 'in depth' into practical issues but to act as a basic guide on a particular topic and, in particular, on procedures and regulations which may govern how a particular aspect of the survey is carried out.

Guidance Notes are generally aimed at survey companies and clients who require detailed information on a subject. Where procedures are recommended for specific professional tasks, these are intended to embody 'best practice', ie procedures which in the opinion of TSA meet a high standard of professional competence.

Briefing notes are intended to provide information and explanations to members on specific topics of relevance to the profession. Briefing notes are not intended to recommend or advise on professional procedures. All content is based on information available at the time of issue.