

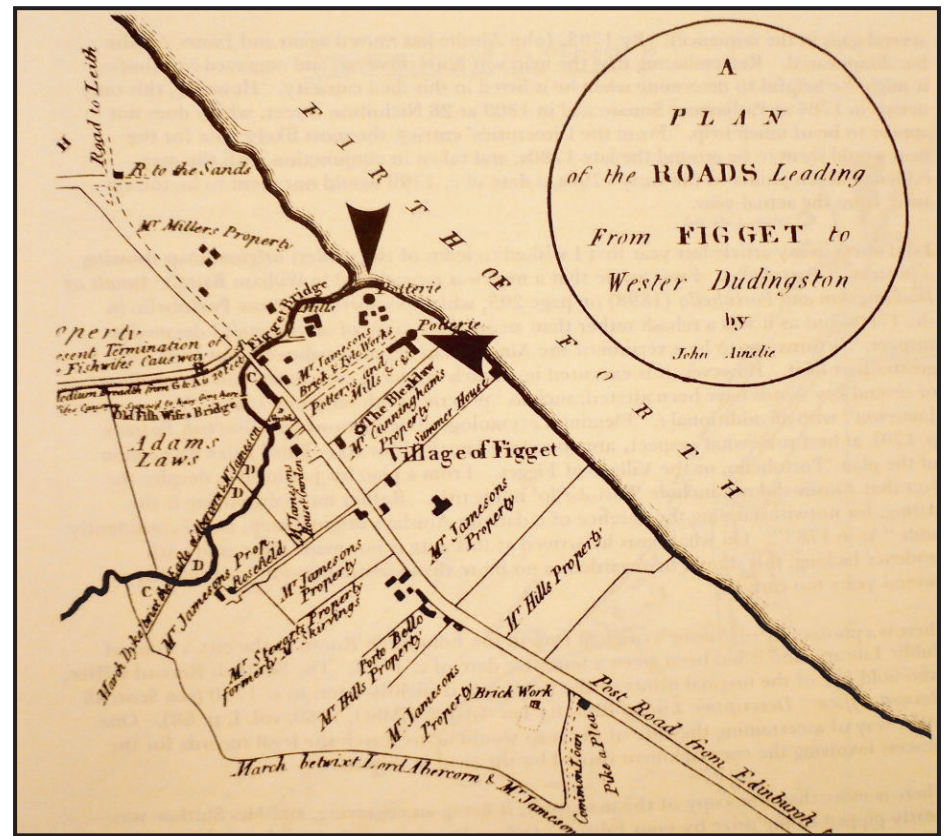
Excavations at 1 Bridge Street



AW Buchan and Co. Factory, mid 20th century

Portobello reputedly got its name from a house built around 1750 by a sailor who had been present at the taking of the town of Portobello in Panama ten years earlier. He built his house on Figgate Whins, a desolate and undeveloped section of coast between Leith and Musselburgh. In 1765, rich clay deposits were discovered just to the west of the Figgate Burn, and this led to the establishment of brick, glass and pottery works, a soapworks a white lead works and associated workers' houses. A small harbour was constructed at the mouth of the burn in 1787, providing burgeoning industries access to trade around the North Sea and further afield.

Two Potteries once occupied the immediate area. **The Waverly Pottery**, thought to have been established circa 1770, was situated to the South and West of the harbour. Enlarged in 1786, the works produced bone china but closed due to lack of business. The site was then bought by John Tough, who specialised in Coarse Brown Ware water jugs. In 1867 the business was sold to AW Buchan, becoming known as the Thistle Pottery, and remained in the hands of AW Buchan and Co, until the firm moved to Crieff in 1972. **Rathbone** founded the Midlothian Pottery at the beginning of the 19th century, on a plot immediately to the east of the harbour. A flint mill was built to grind material for glazes. Around 1840 the site was bought by Grays and was given over to producing stoneware.



Anslie Survey of Figgate Whins - 1790



Extract from John Wood's 1824 Survey, showing the Position of the Harbour



George R Haggarty FSA, FSA Scot

Portobello Resident and Research Associate at the National Museums of Scotland, with widely recognised expertise on the early ceramic industry in Scotland, will be on site during all groundbreaking works in order to supervise the sampling and retention of ceramics.

Jake Streatfeild-James MA, AIfA, FSA Scot

Excavation Director with AOC Archaeology Group and also a resident of Portobello will supervise all archaeological works, ensuring that surviving structures uncovered during excavation are properly recorded.



Exterior of AW Buchan and Co. works - Mid 20th Century

During March and April 2013 AOC Archaeology Group, in conjunction with the City of Edinburgh Council Archaeology Service, will be monitoring development works at 1 Bridge Street, Portobello, in order to recover information about the local ceramic industries. Archaeological works have been commissioned by MNM Developments Ltd as part of the proposed residential development of the site.

