

City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh
Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

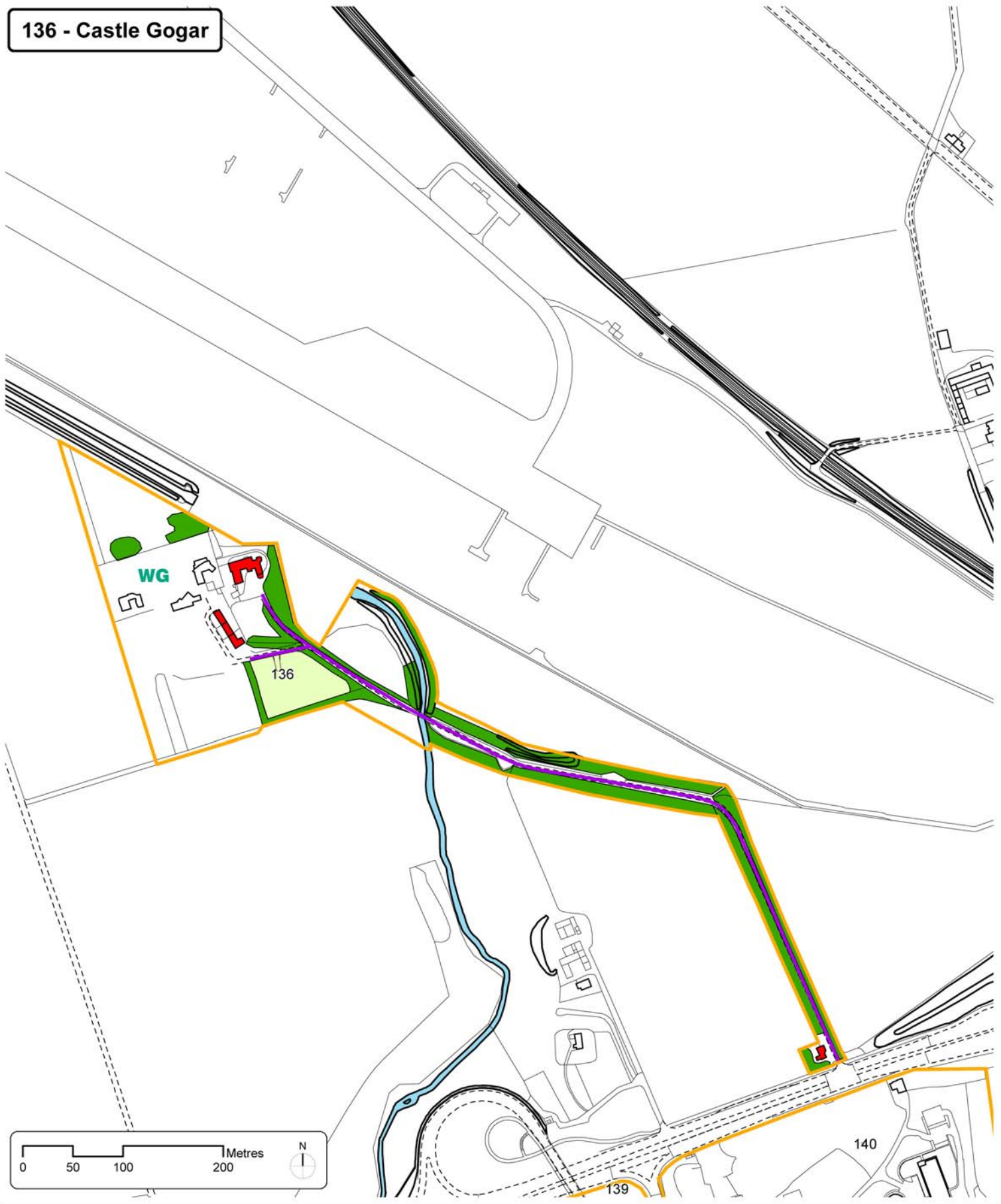
136 Castle Gogar

Consultants














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Survey visits: June 2007, January 2009

136 - Castle Gogar



Key

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Site boundary |  Essential setting |
|  Ruined buildings |  Site of former house |
|  Principal buildings |  Main drive |
|  Gardens |  Principal views or vista |
|  Water |  Panoramic View |
|  Woodlands |  Walled Garden |
|  Parkland | |

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**SURVEY OF GARDENS AND
DESIGNED LANDSCAPES**

Peter McGowan
Associates with
Christopher Dingwall

136 Castle Gogar

Parish Gogar, then united with Corstorphine in 1599; later Edinburgh

NGR NT 165 730

NMRS No NT17SE 9.00

Owners Private

DESIGNATIONS

Listing Castle Gogar with cottage, gatehouse, stables, outbuildings and gate piers A
Castle Gogar bridge B
Castle Gogar lodge, gates and gate piers B
Gogar Parish Church (formerly C of S) and churchyard B

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

South of Castle Gogar: Gogar Mains, fort, palisaded enclosure and field system 850m SSE of NGR NT166 725

Green belt

REASONS FOR INCLUSION

A small and isolated place of some historical interest in an area of rapid change, which although positioned between Edinburgh airport and the main Glasgow Road remains significant in the locality on account of its listed buildings and mature trees along the drive and in the core site.

LOCATION, SETTING AND EXTENT

Castle Gogar lies north of Glasgow Road (A8) and immediately south of Edinburgh airport, close to its boundary, with a long tree-lined drive from a lodge beside the main road. The new tram route will cross the drive. To the south of the house is Gogar church and graveyard, and the remains of a mediaeval village. Castle Gogar is positioned between Ingliston (135) and Maybury, with RBS Gogarburn (140) to the south of the A8. Lying between the trunk road and the airport, the site is subject to constant noise and has seen rapid change in recent years. In early 2009 the vicinity is impacted heavily by tram line construction, with the tram route planned to run from the airport terminal close Castle Gogar on the south, then looping south of Gogar church before crossing the drive just north of the lodge and then continuing east parallel to Glasgow Road. Site area 7.3ha.

MAIN PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

Early 17th century; 18th century; 19th century; early 21st century.

HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

It is variously thought that Gogar estate belonged to the monks of Holyrood (Wallace 226) or that Robert the Bruce gifted it to Alexander Seton (*pers comm* John Lawson 12 Dec 2005) who was one of the King's loyal supporters. Later it was owned by Walter de Haliburton (of Dirleton) who gave it to his brother George de Haliburton (NSA 213). RCAHMS records that the original Gogar House was built c1300 and belonged to the Forresters of Corstorphine.

By 1516 much of the Gogar lands had passed to Robert Logan of Restalrig and the house and lands were sold to either Adam Couper (or Cowper) or to Sir John Cowper, Lord Ordinary of the Court of Session, who bought the lands of Nether Gogar in 1601. Cowper acquired the remaining part of the barony of Gogar in 1604 from the family of Richardson of Smeaton. Later owners included merchant Andrew Myreton (1699) who added nearby lands, and his son Sir

Ordnance Survey 1st edition
6" map 1853-53

Robert Myreton who 'enclosed and considerably improved' the estate. He died in 1774 and was succeeded by his grandson David Cunningham who sold the estate to William Ramsay of Barnton in 1790. It was still owned by the Ramsays of Barnton in the mid 1800s.

The present house was built in 1625, incorporating the earlier one, by the son of John Couper, whose initials and those of his wife – IC and HS – appear on pediments on both north and south elevations. The L-plan three-storey baronial mansion was probably designed by William Ayton (Gifford 590-91) and has walls of harled rubble with sandstone dressings. It was extended to the west c1700, when the cottage was also added, and again in the 19th century; it boasts cross-stepped turrets with candle-snuffer roofs (HS).

Today Gogar church remains in use as a workshop and the home farm in ruins located quite separately to the south-west of the house. The mediaeval village of Nether Gogar (perhaps late 12th century – *pers comm* John Lawson 12 Dec 2005) has recently been the subject of archaeological investigation by Headland Archaeology. Nether Gogar was first recorded in 1453 (Harris, 297). In 1829, Sir Robert Liston (of nearby Millburn Tower and sometime British minister to the United States) wanted to buy the 'village of Gogar and the ground contiguous' and there is an extant map (NAS RHP 1397) which indicates that, at the time, there were: a burying ground, school, barnyard, smithy, Mr Bell's offices and a green. The site is to the east of Gogar burn, to the south of the old mill lead, and opposite the road to Millburn Tower.

In 2006-07 a new housing project was completed to the west of the house enclosure comprising five modern houses, three of which are sited in the walled garden and two to its south, and the conversion of the stables into two homes. As noted above, the locality is heavily affected by the new tram line that loops south of the house before crossing the drive. Three or four houses or cottages beside Glasgow Road were demolished in advance of the tram project.

Maps and Graphic Evidence

Blaeu (1654) shows Gogar and Nether Gogar. Adair's manuscript map (c1682) shows *Gogarston*, *Gogar toun* and *Gogar M*, all close to the road, while the Adair/Cooper printed map (1682) shows the same names apart for *Gogar* in place of *Gogar toun*, depicted with an enclosure of trees. Roy's Military Survey shows a mansion at *Gouger* and a walled enclosure and avenue running southwards, though it is more in line with the walled garden than the house and lies all to the west of the burn. Armstrong (1773) shows *Gogar* mansion in a well-treed formal setting, mainly west of the burn, but with a larger rectangular tree-edged enclosure extending north and east of the burn. Knox (1816) first shows *Gogar*



Roy c1750



Armstrong 1773



Knox 1816

Castle Gogar and garden enclosure



*Castle Gogar 1886
(RCAHMS/City of Edinburgh
Libraries)*



House with a tree-lined drive from the main road at *Nether Gogar*. Sharp *et al* (1828) indicate ruins at [Nether] *Gogar* and a more embellished landscape associated with the burn and main drive. By 1853 the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map shows only remnants of avenue trees and other older linear planting so that the tree-lined drive to the house, a small parkland area east of the house and the walled garden to its west are all that really comprise the designed landscape. A lodge appears beside the road and the church is shown in ruins, before the building of the present structure. It appears that little changed in this basic structure until the 21st century.

COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

Architectural Features

Castle Gogar

McKean describes Castle Gogar as a 'smart if slightly undigested chateau in sunny, aircraft-crossed meadows' and as 'defensible as a greenhouse' (McKean 175). Gifford *et al* say that 'its towers, turrets and crowsteps make this the most baronial of Edinburgh's late 16th–early 17th century mansions.' The plan is an L but with the jamb joined to the main block only by its south-east corner. In the inner angle a large octagonal stair-tower is corbelled out to the square at eaves level and balustraded. A rough entrance court open to the south is formed by a west extension of c1700 and a near contemporary cottage. They may be on the line of the original barmkin.

Stables

A small stables lies to the south-west of the house, with a cottage to south. These have now been converted or restored as part of the recent housing development. A gatehouse lies immediately north of gates to stables.



South lodge

South Lodge and Gates

Mid 19th century L-plan lodge beside Glasgow Road. Single storey, L-plan with lower rear jamb. Squared and coursed sandstone rubble with polished sandstone margins, chamfered reveals.

Gatepiers c1900 incorporating earlier masonry, according to the list description. Ashlar, cushion-rusticated piers with cornice and decorative urn finial, buttressed at rear, set back with short concave quadrant walls. Gifford *et al* give the date of c1730 and note 'exuberant late-17th century wrought-iron gates ... said to have come from Caroline Park.' The gates are no longer present.



Gates beside Glasgow Road

Walled Garden and Housing Development

The walled garden remains west of the house and is not listed. Five modern houses, three of which are sited in the walled garden and two to its south, were completed in 2006-07. The design in the international style was by Ian Aitken of



Recent houses, stables block, mansion, walled garden (far left) and boundary cypresses, seen from south-west

Yeoman McAllister Architects, for developer Hudson Homes in association with Dennis Developments Ltd. The new houses are described as a 'contemporary interpretation of the architectural language of Rietveld, Corbusier and Meier. Aesthetically modern and progressive whilst still reflecting the sculptural nature and sense of place of the Scots Baronial, Castle Gogar.'

Bridges

Single span bridge dated 1672 with later ashlar saddleback coping to rubble parapet carries the south drive over the Gogar Burn; hog's back profile; listed Cat B.

Gogar Church

A 1890 church built on an earlier church site. The earlier church was described in 1791 as '... another place of worship, but which appears never to have been used for that purpose since the time of the Reformation' (OSA 146). There is a monument in the churchyard by architect Thomas Hamilton (1784-1858) to Sir Robert and Lady Liston, dated 1829 (Colvin 455), that was built before Sir Robert died in 1836.

South end, east and west crow-stepped gables 17th century. Square tower and remainder built 1890-1 when restored as place of worship by J Anderson Williamson. Gothic, cruciform, low rubble-built with broad eaves and a squat topless tower.

The church was last used for services in 1955 and it fell into disrepair until restored in 1980 by Chris Holmes and colleagues for use as a cabinetmaking workshop. Gogar Cabinetworks now houses several independent designer/makers.

Estate Walls

Wall approx. 1.2m high in mortar-bound random rubble with a saddleback cope runs along the south boundary at the back of the footway. No other boundary walls, apart from wall of house garden enclosure approx. 1.8m high, extended on the west to form a gateway to the area of new houses.



End of cottage/stables block and one of recent houses



Maybury, recent house (Yeoman McAllister Architects)



Gogar bridge



*Gogar church from RBS
Gogarbun overbridge*

*Entrance gates to mansion
and to recent housing area*

*Large trees in north part of
avenue approaching mansion*



South Drive

Tarmac surfaced road approx 3.0-3.5m wide with passing places running NNW then WNW from South lodge to gates to house garden enclosure, lined with trees as noted below.

Gardens and Policy Planting

Gardens

The house garden enclosure comprises mainly mature trees (ash, hawthorn, horse chestnut, sycamore) in grass with some small-scale ornamental planting close to the house.

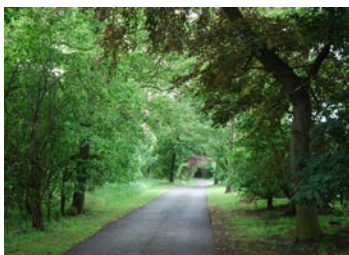
Parkland and Trees

Small areas of parkland character lie south of the house, defined by the burn course with birch/alder scrub on the east of the drive and by a south boundary row of ash, elm, horse chestnut, sycamore on the west of the drive.

The boundary south of the housing area is marked by established line of Leyland cypress and new rows of birch, mimicking some older Lombardy poplars in a short row closer to the houses.

South Drive Avenue

The avenue varies from a single row to a narrow belt of generally broadleaved mature trees, not over-mature although some in poor condition. The south part is an informal avenue of ash, beech, purple beech, horse chestnut, sycamore and Scots pine. North of the bend the avenue narrows to a hedgerow with overgrown beech hedge, plus hawthorn, holly and trees as before. North of the bridge the avenue comprises large horse chestnut, lime and sycamore in a single row. A little restocking using forestry transplants in tubes intermittently along the drive.



*South part of avenue near
lodge*

Water Features

The Gogar burn flows from south to north, going under the drive at the bridge, then bending around the house on the west and entering a culvert before the airport land.



*Gogar burn from bridge with
airport beyond*

Views and Vistas

General southerly outlook but no views of any quality. Pentland Hills to the south and Lomond Hills to the north will be visible from upper floors.

Visual Intrusions

The vicinity is heavily impacted by existing and new transport infrastructure including the airport runway immediately to the north, construction works for the tram line to the south and across the drive and the existing A8 dual-carriage way and new RBS overbridge to the south.



*Avenue trees seen from
Glasgow Road across tram
works*

Area of Influence

The estate associated with Castle Gogar once extended over most of the other Gogar sites and in the 18th century would appear to have included a large rectangular site well beyond the present boundaries, as shown on Armstrong's (1773) and other maps. Today the airport boundary to the north cuts off the former landscape but the land as far as Glasgow Road and including the Gogar church remains the outlook for the house and its landscape – and its essential setting – although currently disturbed in large part by tram line construction works.

Archaeology

The remains of Nether Gogar and the long established church and house uses give the locality some interest archaeologically, as noted above.

PUBLIC ACCESS

No public access. Drive could link to other footpath routes serving the locality in the future but private residential spaces need to be avoided.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

The core values of the site – the listed buildings, the bridge and the tree-lined drive, with their immediate setting – need to be conserved and planned into this rapidly changing area.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overall

A small and isolated site with limited features but of some historical interest. Although it lies in an area of rapid change and is positioned between Edinburgh airport and the main Glasgow Road the place remains significant in the locality on account of its listed buildings and mature trees along the drive and in the core site in an area (north of A8) that is largely devoid of trees.

Work of Art

Little

Historical

Some

Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural

Little

Architectural

Outstanding

Scenic

Some

Nature Conservation

Little

Archaeological

High

Recreational

Little

Sources – Primary

Blaeu *Atlas of Scotland*, 1654 NLS

Adair *A map of Midlothian - Counties of Scotland* MSS version c. 1682 NLS

Adair/Cooper *A map of Midlothian – Counties of Scotland* printed version -1735 NLS

Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* 1747-55 Ref 07/5b British Library via SCRAN

Armstrong, *Map of the Three Lothians*, 1773 NLS

Knox *Map of the Shire of Edinburgh*, 1816 NLS

Thomson *Atlas of Scotland*, 1832 NLS

First edition Ordnance Survey (1852) Sheets 1 and 5 NLS

Parish map OS (1898-1904) NLS

NLS National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk

Reg Mag Sig Register of the Great Seal of Scotland Edinburgh

NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland

SCRAN Scottish Cultural Resource Access Network www.scran.ac.uk

Plans at National Archives of Scotland (NAS), Register House Plans (RHP)

NAS RHP1397 1829 Plan of the village of Gogar and the ground contiguous, the property to be purchased by Sir Robert Liston

Letter from John Lawson, City Archaeologist to Head of Planning 12 Dec 2005

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RCAHMS (1929) The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions of Scotland, *Tenth Report with inventory of monuments and constructions in the counties of Midlothian and West Lothian*, Edinburgh, 23-24, No 29

NLS MS. 5683, f. 140 re Gogar church monument to Sir Robert and Lady Liston
