

MGDG11



MUIRFIELD GATE, DUNCUR ROAD, GULLANE

Historic Building Appraisal

for Lindsay Buchan Architects

11/00129/P

August 2011

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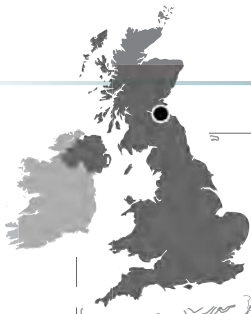
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Muirfield Gate
 Duncur Road
 Gullane
 East Lothian

0 100km



Key
 — site boundary



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Scale 1:1,250 @ A4



0 50m

Illus 1
 Location plan

MUIRFIELD GATE, DUNCUR ROAD, GULLANE

Historic Building Appraisal

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Lindsay Buchan Architects to undertake a Historic Buildings Appraisal on a large A-listed residence at Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane (Illus 1). The work was required to satisfy a planning condition (planning ref. 11/00129/P) set by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service in advance of a major renovation of the house and grounds.

The appraisal recorded a number of documented modifications to Muirfield Gate since the buildings construction in 1907. The appraisal did not identify any unrecorded modifications to the building.

1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Lindsay Buchan Architects to undertake a Historic Buildings Appraisal on a large A-listed residence at Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane (Illus 1). The work was required to satisfy a planning condition (planning ref. 11/00129/P) set by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service in advance of a major renovation of the house and grounds.

The house was designed by architect Sydney Mitchell in 1897 and has seen extensive modification since. Substantial documentary evidence exists describing the development of house and grounds, and several recent reports have attempted to collate this information as a means to inform the present development. This appraisal describes the available documentary information, provides a basic photographic record of the building and grounds at the time of the visit (21–22 July, 2011), and highlights a number of further points of interest.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the programme of Historic Building Appraisal (ELCAS 2006) was to provide an assessment the interior and exterior of the structure in its present state, prior to any demolition or alteration.

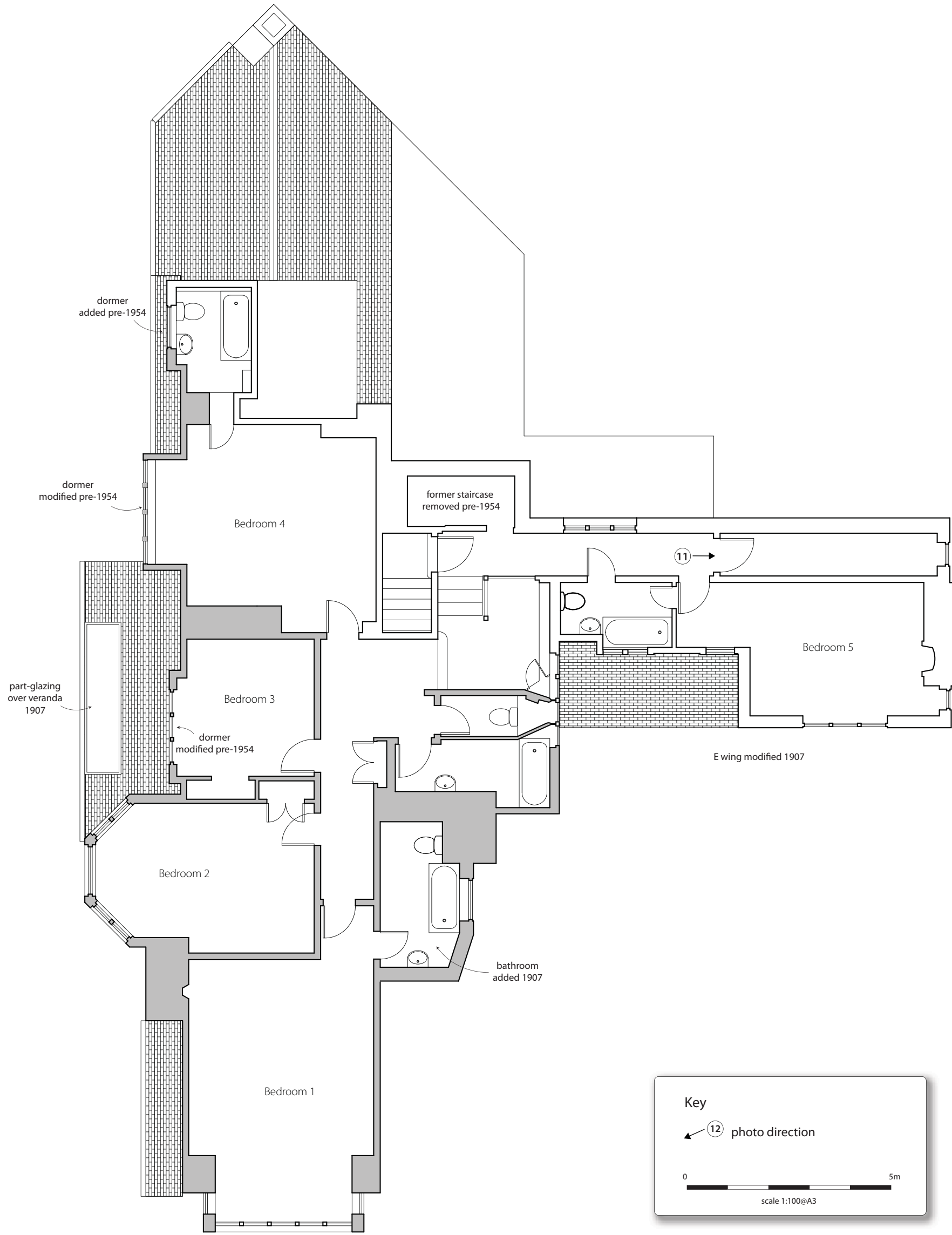
3. METHODOLOGY

1

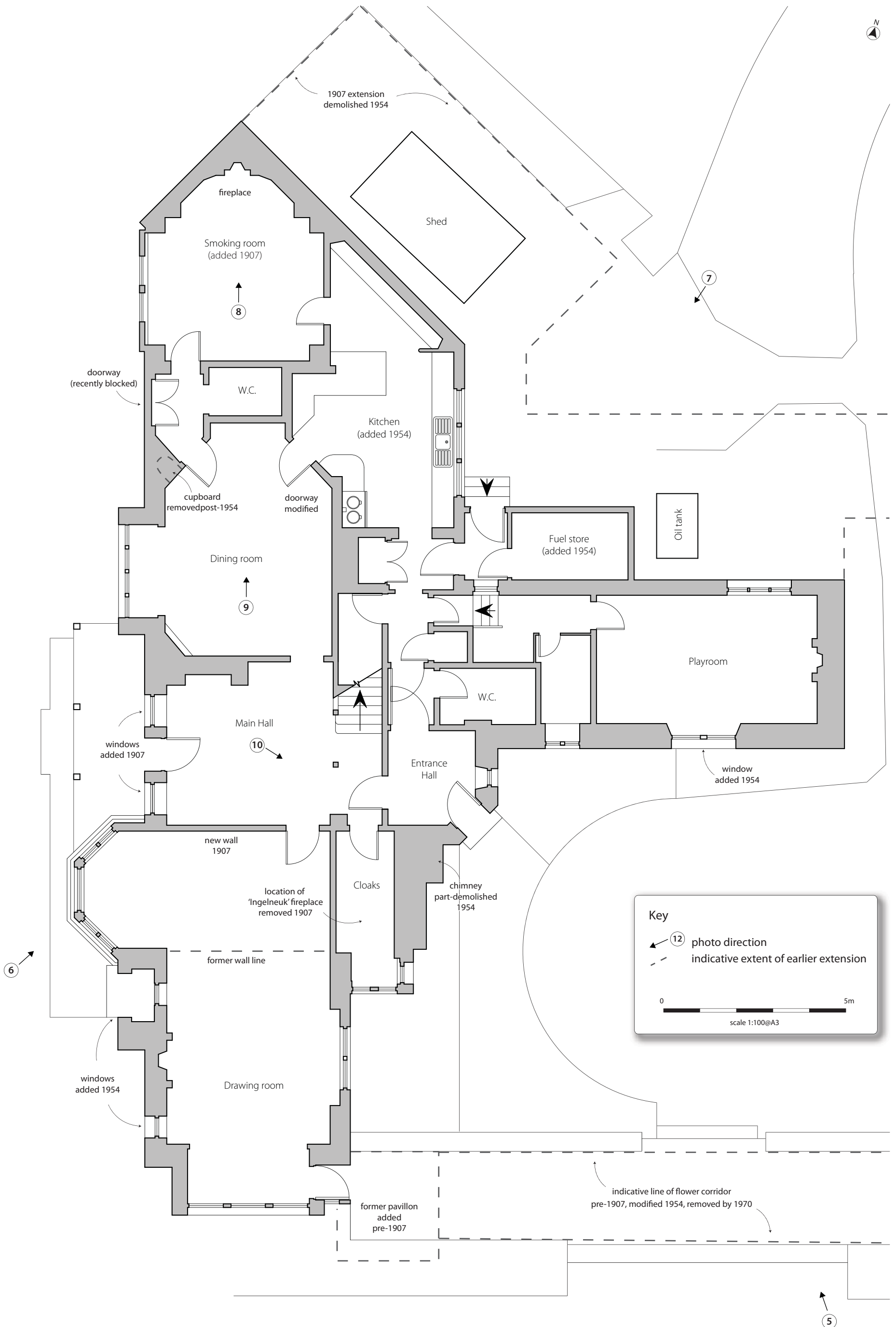
An archive assessment of the site was undertaken as part of the programme of works. This comprised consultation of the most easily available photographic and documentary records and included the National Map Library, The East Lothian Councils Historic Environment Record, the National Monuments Record of Scotland and other public sources as appropriate.

The appraisal utilised existing architect's plans and elevations where possible. These were annotated with phasing information and points of detail. A short descriptive summary of the structure including assessment of the internal and external elevations/features and any other relevant constructional details was undertaken.

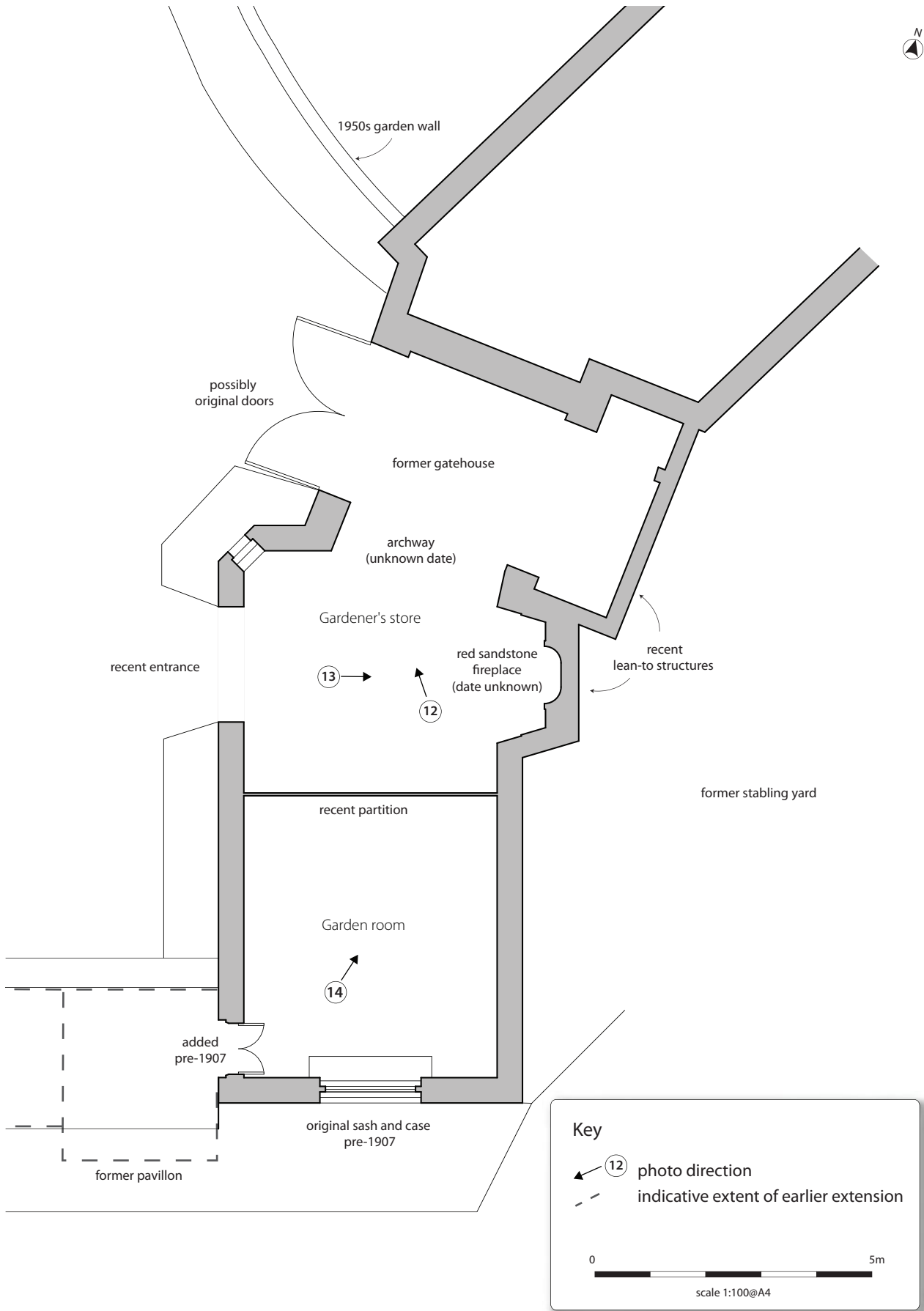
A fully referenced photographic survey as a primary record of existing buildings within the complex and any significant features of architectural interest was made using both digital and 35mm colour slide media with a standard 1m scale where appropriate. Specific architectural details were recorded photographically. The location, direction and description of each photo is fully described in the photo register (Appendix 1). Additionally, the locations of photos referred to in this report are marked on the floor plans (Illus 2, 3 and 4). Digital copies of all photos can be found on the attached CD.



Illus 2
First floor plan showing photo locations and relevant architectural details



Illus 3
Ground floor plan showing photo locations and relevant architectural details



Illus 4

Ground floor plan of outbuildings, showing photo locations and relevant architectural details



Illus 5
View of S and E façade



Illus 6
View of W façade



Illus 7
Gardener's store from the SE



Illus 8
N wall of smoking room

held by Historic Scotland. This account is mirrored in the East Lothian Council HER record. More information is likely to be available in family archives, the NAS and in contemporary architectural accounts.

4.2 Building Appraisal

This section presents a number of representative views selected from the photographic record, which should be viewed in conjunction with the annotated floor plans (Illus 2, 3 and 4). Salient details are described in the captions, and a very brief narrative history is provided to provide context. This has been synthesised from the sources mentioned above and notes taken during the site visit.

4. RESULTS

An adequate description of the exterior in its current form can be found in the Listed Building Report. Illus 5 shows the building from the SE, Illus 6 from the SW and Illus 7 from the NE.

4.1 Archive Appraisal

The most useful starting points for research into the history of Muirfield Gate are two reports prepared in support of the planning application for the present modifications. The first (Taylor & Dorrian, 2010) is a detailed account of the development of the grounds, with particular attention paid to the garden history and wider setting. While there is little architectural commentary, the report does contain an account of the various owners, a full map regression, aerial photographs and a number of contemporary photographs clearly showing the main elevations of the building at several stages of development.

The second report is the planning statement (Lindsay Buchan Architects, 2011), which focuses on establishing an architectural chronology of the building. This information appears to be synthesised from several sets of original architectural plans and elevations (held by RCAHMS, also available on the East Lothian planning portal), and some investigation on-site.

Some limited information is available elsewhere: RCAHMS does hold a number of additional photographs from 1895–1904, that may not have been used in either of the above reports. A brief general building description is available in the Listed Building report,

General

Muirfield Gate (originally ‘The Pleasance’) was designed by the architect Sydney Mitchell in 1897. It was to be his family home, and as such, it was intended to be a long-term project, the buildings (and grounds) developing over the years. Mitchell lived there until his death in 1930.

The buildings were set in two acres of woodland adjacent to the (then newly moved) Muirfield golf course, and



Illus 9
N wall of dining room



Illus 10
SE corner of main hall

(expanded by 1915 to four acres) included substantial woodland and a well structured garden. The house has a number of stylistic devices that add to the relaxed, organic feel – such as the battered lower wall courses, irregular eaves, hanging tiles and training eyes for ivy and climbers on the chimneys.

The house originally had four public rooms on the ground floor, and six bedrooms on the first floor, accessed by two staircases. Shortly after the original construction, the stables and staff quarters to the east of the main building were converted into a music or games room, linked to the main house by a fully glazed ‘flower corridor’ – an almost unique structure(Taylor & Dorrian, pp.12–13).

originally consisted of an L shaped, two storey English vernacular style house, with several associated out-buildings for stabling and staff quarters. There are uninterrupted views over the golf course, the Firth of Forth and Fife from the substantial bay windows and veranda on the west side of the house, and the grounds

1907 modifications

The house was substantially expanded in 1907, adding a smoking room (Illus 8) and several additional bedrooms

10



Illus 11
Former corridor in E wing



Illus 12
Gardener's store from the SE

**Illus 13**

Fireplace in gardener's store from the W

11

and bathrooms, mostly at the north end and on the east wing. Around this time, the original drawing room and hall were altered (Illus 9 and 10). Some of the west facing windows were also modified.

Following Mitchell's death in 1930, the house changed hands and was renamed Muirfield Gate. Some modifications to the grounds were made soon thereafter.

1954 modifications

The house was sold again in 1954, and further substantial changes were made. The 1907 extensions were demolished, leaving some odd spaces where corridors and stairways used to be (Illus 11). A new flat-roofed kitchen was added to the north-east side (Illus 7), and some of the glazing removed from the flower corridor. Further changes are made to the grounds, including a new driveway.

1970 modifications

By 1970, the stable block house and yard (to the east of the gatehouse), the wooded areas to the south are sold, and the house changes owners again. The flower corridor was replaced with paving and a low wall. The music/games room is split (exact date unclear) by a large

timber partition. The northern part was joined with a large arch to the gatehouse to form a garage/gardener's store, although the date for the construction of this arch, or that of the large red sandstone fireplace adjacent to it is uncertain (Illus 12 and 13). The southern part of the building became the garden room. The intricate plasterwork on the ceiling can still be seen on both sides of the partition (Illus 14). Some of the metal casement windows on the main house are replaced with sash-and-case for ease of maintenance.

The building was category A listed in 1988.

5. CONCLUSIONS

While it is not presently possible to exactly date the addition, removal or modification of every architectural detail of this building, there is a clear record of the main periods of change, and a good sense of the general development of the site. With further research, and some more detailed site investigation, it may be possible to tie up some of the remaining mysteries.

However, in terms of preservation of the original fabric and nature of the building, this does not seem necessary. The present architect intends to retain all original existing architectural features and to re-instate and restore many



Illus 14

Decorative plasterwork on the ceiling of the garden room, facing NE

of the original architectural features that had altered or destroyed by the modifications – with areas of demolition or new build mostly limited to those parts of the building that have previously been altered.

It is suggested that given the A-listed status of the building, a high-quality photographic record is produced for archive purposes upon completion of the renovation works – similar photos have clearly been valuable in

12 preparing the plans for the present development.

6. REFERENCES

- Lindsay Buchan Architects, 2011, *Muirfield Gate, Duncar Road, Gullane*, Lindsay Buchan Architects, unpublished planning statement.
- Taylor, K & Dorrian, E, 2010, *Research survey and recommendations for the garden of Muirfield Gate, Gullane*, unpublished client report.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1 – Photographic register

Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
001	N	N wall of smoking room, showing fireplace
002	W	W wall of smoking room, showing windows and door to dining room
003	W	View looking W from WC adjacent to smoking room, showing externally blocked double doors
004	E	View of ceiling of WC adjacent to smoking room, showing skylight
005	N	N wall of dining room, showing doors to small hall and kitchen
006	W	W wall of dining room, showing window and fireplace
007	N	Storage alcove in N wall of main hall
008	W	W wall of main hall, showing modified windows and door to veranda
009	SE	SW corner of main hall, showing stairs, doorways to entrance hall, cloakroom and drawing room and decorative arches
010	W	View of bay window in drawing room
011	E	View of test hole in drawing room ceiling showing original beams and joists
012	W	W wall of drawing room showing windows and fireplace
013	E	E wall of drawing room, showing window
014	S	S wall of drawing room, showing windows and external door
015	E	View of external door in drawing room, showing location of former flower corridor and music room in the background
016	S	View of cloakroom showing windows and fittings
017	E	View of entrance hall, showing front door, window and recessed doormat
018	N	View of corridor to kitchen from entrance hall
019	E	View of WC adjacent to entrance hall, showing rooflight
020	E	View down E wing corridor leading to playroom
021	S	View of WC adjacent to playroom, showing window
022	E	E wall of playroom, showing fireplace and windows on N and S walls
023	E	View of porch and door to fuel store from kitchen, showing formerly external window
024	NW	View of kitchen from S door
025	N	View of skylight above main staircase
026	E	View down E wing corridor on first floor
027	E	View of first floor storage room in E wing
028	W	W end of first floor bedroom in E wing, showing original window and doors to bathroom and corridor
029	SE	E wall of first floor bedroom in E wing, showing fireplace and windows
030	NE	View from first floor window in E wing corridor
031	SE	First floor landing, showing E-facing windows
032	SW	View from first floor landing, showing main corridor and steps to loft space
033	SE	View of first floor corridor, showing small cupboard and doors to WC, bathroom and S bedroom
034	E	WC adjacent to first floor landing, showing E-facing window
035	E	Bathroom adjacent to first floor landing, showing E-facing window
036	NE	Bathroom en-suite to first floor S bedroom



Photo no.	Direction facing	Description
037	SE	SE corner of first floor S bedroom, showing 'built-in' storage and windows
038	S	S end of first floor S bedroom, showing S-facing windows
039	NW	NW corner of first floor S bedroom, showing fireplace
040	W	W wall of first floor bedroom 2, showing bay window and seating
041	E	E wall of first floor bedroom 2, showing door and built-in storage
042	SW	SW corner of first floor bedroom 3, showing windows and built-in storage
043	SW	SW corner of first floor bedroom 4, showing fireplace and windows
044	NW	Bathroom en-suite to first floor bedroom 4
045	NW	NW corner of first floor bedroom 4, showing windows, door to en-suite and hatch to loft space
046	SE	Internal view of gatehouse to former stable yards, showing archway, high-level window and later lean-to structure
047	SE	Detail of timber ceiling and high-level window in gatehouse
048	N	View of NW wall of gatehouse from gardener's store, showing 3-part door, timber ceiling, loft space and linking archway
049	E	E wall of gardener's store showing red sandstone fireplace and decorated plaster ceiling
050	E	Detail of plaster ceiling, E side of gardener's store
051	N	View of lean-to behind fireplace, gardener's store
052	SW	W side of gardener's store showing dormer, large opening and decorated plaster ceiling
053	S	S wall of garden room, showing window
054	N	View of partition between gardener's store and garden room
055	NW	View of plaster ceiling on W side of garden room
056	NE	View of plaster ceiling on N side of garden room
057	W	View through door of garden room, along line of former flower corridor
058	SW	Panorama of main house from SE - shot 1
059	W	Panorama of main house from SE - shot 2
060	NW	Panorama of main house from SE - shot 3
061	NW	General view of house from garden to SE
062	E	W external elevation of outbuildings
063	E	W external elevation of main house
064	N	Veranda showing glazed portion of roof and battered lower wall
065	SW	General view of main house from driveway to NE
066	S	Panorama of main house from NE - shot 1
067	S	Panorama of main house from NE - shot 2
068	SW	Panorama of main house from NE - shot 3
069	W	Kitchen extension - external
070	SE	View of curved garden wall flanking driveway

7.2 Appendix 2 – Discovery and Excavation Scotland entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane
PROJECT CODE:	MGDG11
PARISH:	Dirleton
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Jürgen van Wessel
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Appraisal
NMRS NO(S):	NT48SE 90.00 and NT48SE 90.01
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	House (20th Century)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 48896 83508
START DATE (this season)	21 July 2011
END DATE (this season)	22 July 2011
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	-
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Lindsay Buchan Architects to undertake a Historic Buildings Appraisal on a large A-listed residence at Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane. The work was required to satisfy a planning condition set out by the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service in advance of a major renovation of the house and grounds.</p> <p>The appraisal recorded a number of documented modifications to Muirfield Gate since the buildings construction in 1907, and did not identify any unrecorded modifications to the building.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	-
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/ deposited)	RCAHMS
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Lindsay Buchan Architects
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	-
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