



## Lady Kitty's Garden, Haddington, East Lothian

02/11/2014

 **archaeology**  
Connolly Heritage Consultancy

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BUILDINGS ARCHAEOLOGIST AND HERITAGE CONSULTANT

OLD SCHOOLROOMS  
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## 1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. An archaeological excavation was required to further investigate possible features that could be of archaeological and historical significance in relation to buildings mentioned in a primary documentary source *A Short History of Haddington* (Gray 1944: 83), located closely to the south west of Lady Kitty's Doocot. The site is located in a walled garden area, west of the river Tyne and in close proximity to St Mary's Parish Church in the historic town of Haddington, East Lothian. The work consisted of the excavation of four 1m x 1m test pits to investigate the presence of subsurface features represented by geophysical anomalies encountered in a geophysical survey carried out by the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society (EAFS) on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2014. These works were commissioned by **Connolly Heritage Consultancy (CHC)** under advice and permission from **East Lothian Council Archaeology Service (ELCAS)**. The work was undertaken on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2014, and was restricted to 1 day of on-site investigation plus any required post excavation analysis. The test pit investigation will also involve two archaeology students which will provide practical field skill training
  
- 1.2. The work will determine the character, date, preservation and depth (where possible) of material remains within Lady Kitty's Doocot Garden. If structural remains are uncovered during the excavation it will be possible to determine what relationship these have both spatially and sequentially relative to Lady Kitty's Garden.
  
- 1.3. Further work could include the opening of additional 1m x 1m test pits in other areas suggested as significant by the geophysical survey. Larger trenches will be required should it be a necessary to excavate down to a depth further than 600mm in the interest of health and safety. If no structural remains are found within the depth of 600mm then it may be necessary to excavate to a depth further than the recommended safe limit in order to uncover structural remains. If this situation arises then the correspondent health and safety guidelines should be adhered to. There is also potential to join the test pits to investigate the areas between the trench's to create a linear trench which would run in a North and South direction.



Figure 1: Location Plan

## 2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. The site is located to the south of Lady Kitty's Doocot which is immediately opposite the western end of the Nungate Bridge over the River Tyne, to the east of Haddington Garden St Mary's Pleasance and to the north of St Mary' Church. NGR NT 51862 73762.

2.2. OASIS ID: connolly1-214674

### 3. Site History

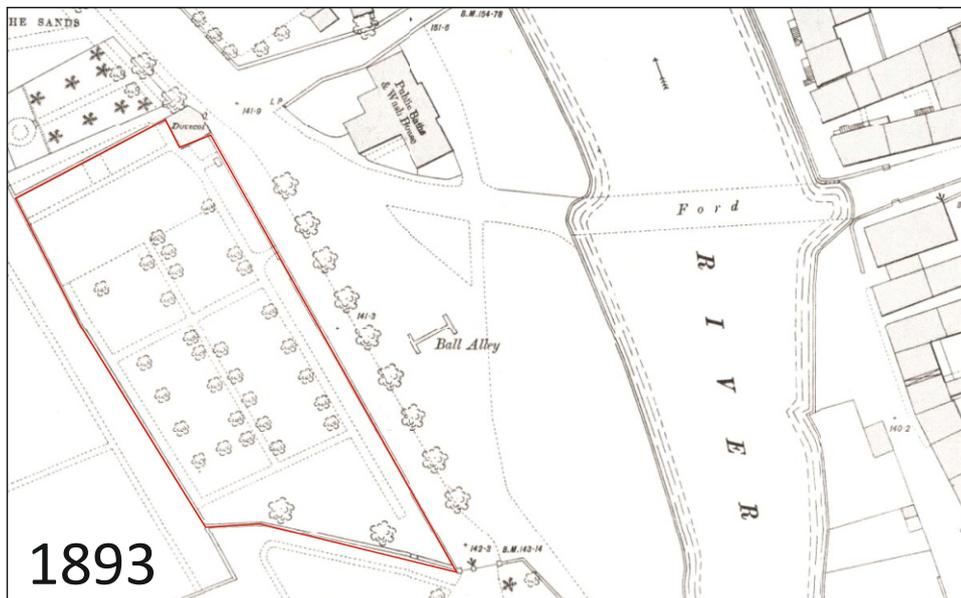
3.1. Lady Kitty's Doocot dates from 1771 when Lady Catherine Charteris Wemyss, the wife of Francis de June 7th Earl of Wemyss, petitioned the town council to have the gateway of St. Mary's Parish Church moved eastward so that the wall surrounding 'her' garden could be built. It was probably about this time that the old buildings were demolished and removed, the site having been used for archery, bowling and executions. It is known Archery was practised on the Sands during the brief reign of May Queen of Scots (1561-67) and this was said to have been the site of the first bowling green in Scotland in 1657 when the Burgh Treasurer was authorised 'to purchase bowls and engage a greenkeeper'.

3.2. On the sands nearby, the battle of the Sands in 1548 took place during the 'Siege' when the English occupied Haddington against the French who had arrived from Edinburgh to assist the Scots. English cannon balls are said to have ricocheted of the walls of St Catherine's Chapel the grounds of which became Lady Kitty's Garden. Lady Kitty took over ownership of the common, the Sands, when she claimed payment of debts incurred by Lewis Gordon, Esq., a road surveyor. At the north end of Lady Kitty's Garden there was a house in what was then known as Friars Croft; it was probably built by Alexander Maitland (of Haddington House). Catherine was born c1720 at Edinburgh and she died suddenly on January 21st 1786 and the garden became her memorial.



1771

Armstrong, Mostyn, fl. 1769-1791



1893

OS large scale Scottish town plans, 1893



1944

OS Air Photo Mosaics of Scotland, 1944-1950

Figure 2: Historic maps

## 4. OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. The primary objectives of the work to be carried out during the investigation through the use of test pits is to investigate the subsurface features highlighted by the previously carried out geophysical survey which will help determine the character, date, preservation and depth (where possible) of material remains within Lady Kitty's Doocot Garden. To record the location of all or any subsurface features and if structural remains are uncovered during the excavation it will be possible to determine what relationship these have both spatially and sequentially relative to Lady Kitty's Garden which will synthesise the activities and chronology of activity within the grounds of Lady Kitty's Garden and the surrounding area.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1. The location of the 1m x 1m test pits were selected in relation to geophysical results highlighted in the previously carried out geophysical survey. The relatively small scale of the test pits required excavation to be carried out by hand tools only including spade, mattock and trowel. The first stage of excavation began with the removal of the topsoil layer which was set aside to be replaced at the end of the excavation. The test pits were to be excavated stratigraphically and recorded using a single context recording method. The depth of excavation was limited to 600mm in the interest of health and safety.
- 5.2. Each new context encountered was recorded and detailed on site and retained for the purpose of producing this report on the works and results of the test pit excavations. It was decided that the small finds excavated during the works were significant enough to be recorded but only for the purpose of producing this report with the use of context sheets. It was decided that these small finds including glass, pottery, ceramic, metal and animal bone were not historically significant enough to warrant the permanent retaining of each item and these were to be returned to the excavated area's during the back filling of trench's.
- 5.3. Photographic evidence was recorded using a digital colour camera. Additional information such as I.D. number, photographic direction and a short description were recorded on the site photograph register.



Figure 3: Overlay of Geophysical plot and location of the 4 1m testpits

## Testpitting in the area of grass within Lady Kitty's Doocot, Haddington

Following from the Ground Resistance survey carried out by the Edinburgh Archaeological Field Society in the area ( see plan) the objectives for the continued archaeological works are as follows

- i) investigate the depth and character of the subsurface features located in the geophysical plot by opening 7 1x1m test pits at the locations shown.
- ii) continue geophysical work on the area of the sands to locate the Ball Alley and possible medieval road from ford.
- iii) To later involve the community within a guided process to provide a sense of ownership of the monuments and utilise skills with the locale.

## 6. RESULTS

### FIELDWORK

- 6.1. The work was undertaken on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 2014 and excavation was restricted to a single day. Weather conditions were good on the day of excavation with bright sunshine providing excellent visibility and dry working conditions. The location of the test pits and surrounding perimeter was made up of a large flat and level grass lawn. There were no spatial restrictions which could have possibly hindered or restricted the works to be carried out. This allowed the excavation and investigation works to be carried out in a safe and controlled manner. The turf topsoil which made up the lawn was regular across the site ranging between 100mm and 150mm in depth.
- 6.2. The various datasets from the investigation are presented in the appendix section; Context list (Appendix 1 ), Photographic list (Appendix 2), DES Entry (Appendix 3)
- 6.3. The Trenches/Survey Area/Building (Fig.1) (This figure should be your site location plan showing the site and the trenches or features or monuments. – you may need further illustrations to show specific trenches/buildings or areas of your survey area in detail.)
- 6.4. Trench 1. The turf layer context no. 1001 was removed and measured to be 100mm in depth. The soil was firm and friable and mid to dark brown in colour. A number of small modern fragments were found within this layer including plastic and was therefore estimated to be laid down relatively recently, most likely in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Once context 1001 was removed context no. 1002 was exposed. 1002 was a dumped layer approximately 200mm in depth, consisting of firm mid to dark brown sandy clayey silt with inclusions of small pebbles and fragments of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> building debris. Towards the base of the context a large piece of 20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed ceramic was found. Context no. 1003 which lay directly underneath 1002 consisted of hard and compact mixed dark brown clayey silt, orange silty clay inclusions and frequent small sized stones. Throughout the context 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic debris such as animal bone and glass appeared. The base of the context was not

found and the overall depth of the layer was not determined as it exceeded the set safe depth limit but a sondage cut in the SE corner of the test pit revealed it is at least 350mm in depth. The mixture and nature of the soil and presence of domestic and building debris suggests that this test pit is located in an area used as a 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century dump.

6.5. Trench 2. Context 2001 consisted of the topsoil and turf layer which measured 100mm in depth. Context 2002, a layer of firmly compacted dark brown clayey silt with regular inclusions of small stone, glass, pottery and animal bone typical of dumped layer of domestic and building debris. The layer was measured to be 180mm in depth. Context 2003 was found to be a mixed layer of dark brown and orange layer of firmly compacted clayey silt. Frequent small, occasional larger stones and mortar flecks are again suggestive of a layer of dumped building debris. The bottom of the context was not reached but it is known the layer is at least 320mm in depth.



**Plate 1:** Test Pit 2, showing mixed rubble and brick forming geophysical linear features

6.6. Trench 3. Context 3001, is again typical of a turf layer measuring at a depth of 150mm. Context 3002 was a firm and compact layer of dark brown clayey silt. Frequent inclusion of small sized stones and domestic debris including charcoal, glass and small animal bones are consistent with another layer of dumped 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material measuring 180mm in depth. Context 3003 contained a layer of compact firm orange and brown layer of clayey silt 240mm in depth. The northern half of the trench contained a considerable amount of moderately sized angular sized stones, as well as occasional larger stones which may have

been previously used as part of a building which was later demolished and dumped. To determine whether these stones were part of a larger pile or related to a structural feature it would be necessary to excavate to a deeper level, however it is most likely these stones were not found in-situ but were used for the construction of a building from nearby which was demolished then dumped in the area of trench 3.

6.7. Trench 4. Context 4001 consists of the turf layer with a depth of 100mm. Context 4002 was characteristic of a dumped layer of dark brown clayey silt measuring at a depth of 100mm and containing domestic and building debris including glass, bone, both small and larger sized stones and traces of mortar. Part of the trench was found to be rather loosely compacted compared to the other trench's suggesting it may have been hand compacted in-situ. Context 4003 was measured at a depth of 200mm and again was found to be more loosely compacted compared to the other trench's suggesting a different method of compaction used after dumping. The layer of dark brown clayey silt contained evidence of domestic debris including small fragments of metal, glass and bone. Building debris was also found within this layer including stones of a variable size as well as clumps and flecks of mortar.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1. It is likely that sometime after the garden became a memorial to Lady Kitty, the garden area fell out of use and was subsequently buried. Stratigraphic examination of the test pits have revealed two phases of backfilling activity represented by two substantial and individual dumped layers. Through test pit excavations it is known both the layers comprise of clayey silt material mixed with building and domestic debris dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first layer encountered represents contexts 1002, 2002, 3002, and 4002 and ranged between 100mm to 200mm in depth. The second mentioned layer comprised of contexts 1003, 2003, 3003 and 4003 and represented a layer which ranged from 200mm to at least 350mm in depth. A greater amount of building debris material was found in this layer including larger sized stones and mortar which may have originally been part of a building demolished in the near vicinity then used as part of the back fill.
- 7.2. Despite the conclusive results from the previous geophysical survey no structural remains related to Lady Kitty's garden were encountered during any of the four test pit excavations. It is thought the structural features would be encountered at a deeper level and would require a larger excavation to take place.

## APPENDIX 1 CONTEXT REGISTER

## Context List – Lady Kitty's Garden (LKG) - St Mary's Church

Context	Description
1001	Topsoil
1002	Mixed dumped layer containing fragments of 19th and 20th building debris.
1003	Mixed dark brown orange dumped layer of 19th and 20th century domestic debris.

Context	Description
2001	Topsoil
2002	Mixed dark brown layer of clayey silt containing 19th and 20th century domestic and building debris.
2003	Mixed dark brown orange layer of clayey silt containing 19th and 20th century domestic and building debris.

Context	Description
3001	Topsoil
3002	Mixed dark brown dumped layer of clayey silt including 19th and 20th century domestic debris.
3003	Mixed dumped layer of dark brown clayey silt and moderately sized angular stones from demolished building, however not in situ.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>4001</b>	Topsoil
<b>4002</b>	Mixed dumped layer of dark brown clayey silt including 19th and 20th century domestic and building debris.
<b>4003</b>	Mixed dumped layer of dark brown clayey silt and building debris including mortar flecks and variable sized stone.

## APPENDIX 2 PHOTO REGISTER - DIGITAL COLOUR PHOTO'S

Photo Record List – Lady Kitty's Garden (LKG) - St Mary's Church				
Photo ID	Site Code	Description	Direction from	Date
1	LKG14	General	N/A	02/11/20014
2	LKG14	General	N/A	02/11/20014
3	LKG14	Trench 3 -3003	N	02/11/20014
4	LKG14	Trench 2 – 2003	N	02/11/20014
5	LKG14	Trench 4 - 4003	N	02/11/20014
6	LKG14	Trench 3 – West facing section	E	02/11/20014
7	LKG14	Trench 3– West facing section	E	02/11/20014
8	LKG14	Trench 2 – West facing section	E	02/11/20014
9	LKG14	Trench 1 – West facing section	E	02/11/20014
10	LKG14	Trench 4 – West facing section	E	02/11/20014

## APPENDIX 3 DES

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	East Lothian
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Lady Kitty's Garden, Haddington
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	LKG 14
<b>PARISH:</b>	Haddington
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	David Connolly
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Connolly Heritage Consultancy
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Test Pits
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT57SW 19.01
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Historical Garden
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NT 51862 73762
<b>START DATE</b>	September 2014
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	November 2014
<b>PREVIOUS WORK</b>	September 2014 – Geophysical Survey
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)</b>	Despite conclusive results from a geophysical survey no structural remains were uncovered in Lady Kitty's garden in any of the four test pit excavations. The observed features were mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century dumping and deep infilling of the garden. It is possible any earlier structural features would be encountered at a deeper level and would require a larger excavation to take place.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	Further Excavation and geophysical prospection in loser bowling green
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	CHC Heritage
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Old Schoolrooms, Luggate Burn, East Lothian, EH41 4QA

## REFERENCES

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