

Visitor Centre, Amisfield Walled Garden, Haddington

February 2014



 **archaeology**
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Amisfield Walled Garden, Haddington East Lothian

Data Structure Report

National Grid Reference (NGR):

NT 55505 67739

Prepared by:

David Connolly

Illustration by:

David Connolly

Date of Fieldwork:

September 2013 – February 2014

Date of Report:

June 2015

Cover image: view to garden from east gate

Below: view of northeast corner pavilion, Amisfield Walled Garden.



Abstract

This report represents the results of the investigation of the area proposed for construction of a temporary education centre within the 18th century Walled Garden at Amisfield in East Lothian.

This was a joint project between the University of Edinburgh Archaeology Society and CHC consulting with support from the Amisfield Preservation Trust involving both professional evaluation of the development area in accordance with the requirements set out in the planning application [12/00705/P] and training for students in commercial works and public archaeology.

It included the involvement of 15 students under close supervision and training.

The excavation in the area of the education centre uncovered no archaeological features

OASIS Record: connolly1-215560

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

- 1.1.1. East Lothian has a rich history of architectural heritage and agricultural innovation. These elements come together in the remarkable structures of the 18th century known as walled gardens, of which Amisfield is one of the apogees of this form.
- 1.1.2. This project, was confined to evaluation excavation of the area to be the site of a proposed education centre.
- 1.1.3. The project was undertaken with Edinburgh University students to allow the close supervision training in the practical and professional aspects of an archaeological project.
- 1.1.4. Support was also provided by members of the Amisfield Preservation Trust and the archaeology was supervised by 3 professional archaeologists at all time

1.2. Location

- 1.2.1. Amisfield Park, to the east of Haddington, East Lothian (Figure 1), once formed the policies of Amisfield House, a Palladian mansion designed by Isaac Ware for Francis Charteris, 7th Earl of Wemyss in the 1750s.
- 1.2.2. The walled garden is located at NT 53314 74192 and the excavation was carried out within the confines of the area to be the location of the education centre to the east of the walled garden. (Figure 1)



Figure 1: Location Plan

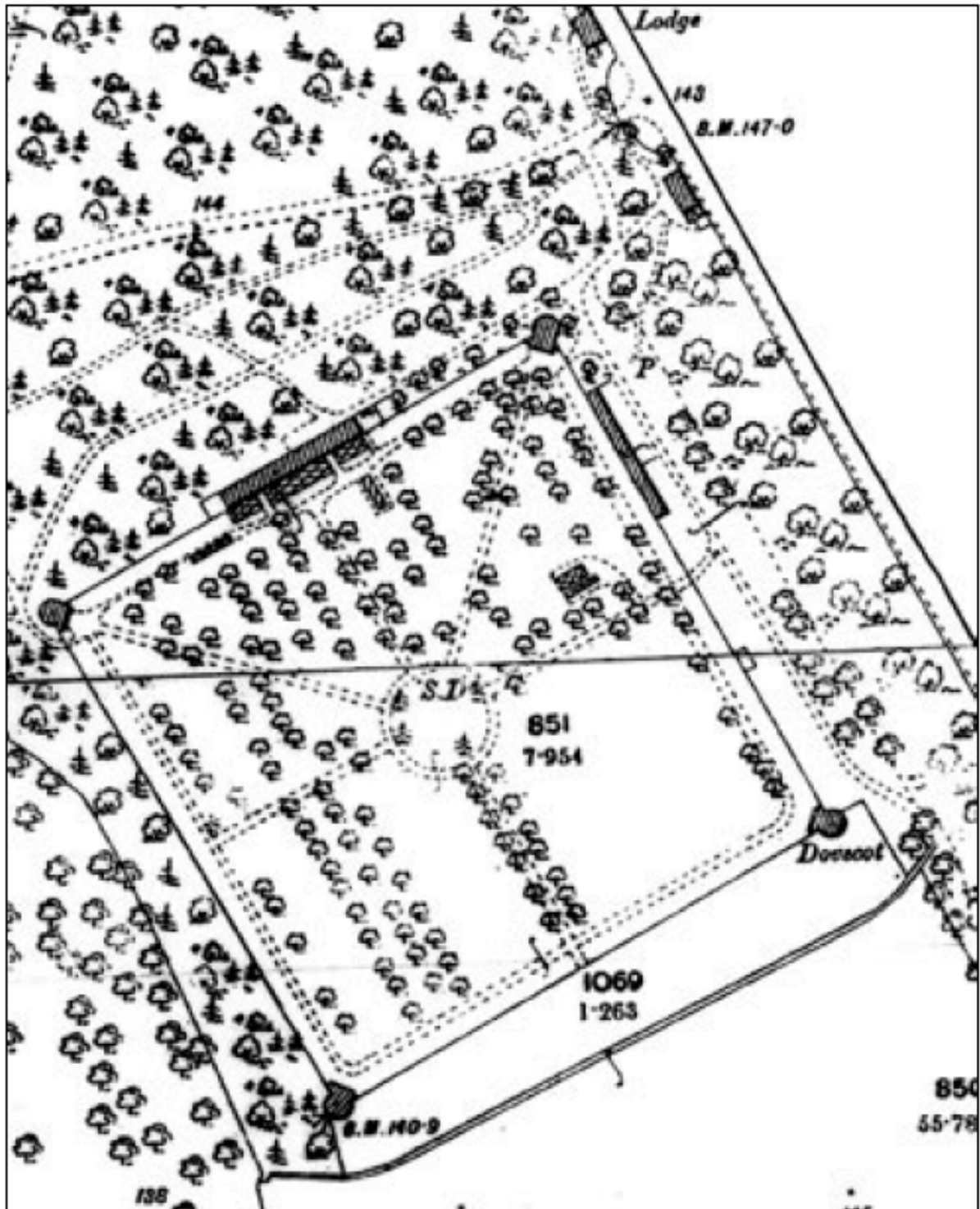


Plate 1: 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map, 25" to mile (to scale), 1893 showing the location of the Glasshouses and rear buildings on the north wall. Note the Glasshouse to the east interior. The excavations took place to the south of the patch

3 Methodology

3.1 Excavation

- 3.2.1 The field work was directed by David Connolly during September 2013- February 2014.
- 3.2.2 University of Edinburgh Archaeology students were present during the excavation Training was provided in all aspects of archaeological excavation and recording.
- 3.2.3 All excavation was undertaken by hand and according to standard CHC procedures. A number of trenches were placed in the project area (Figure 2). The trenches were excavated down to natural glacial till deposits.
- 3.2.4 A full record was maintained throughout the project, including photographic, drawn and written records.
- 3.2.5 The excavated areas have been left closed, and backfilled.



Plate 2 Aerial view of investigation area to east of walled garden.

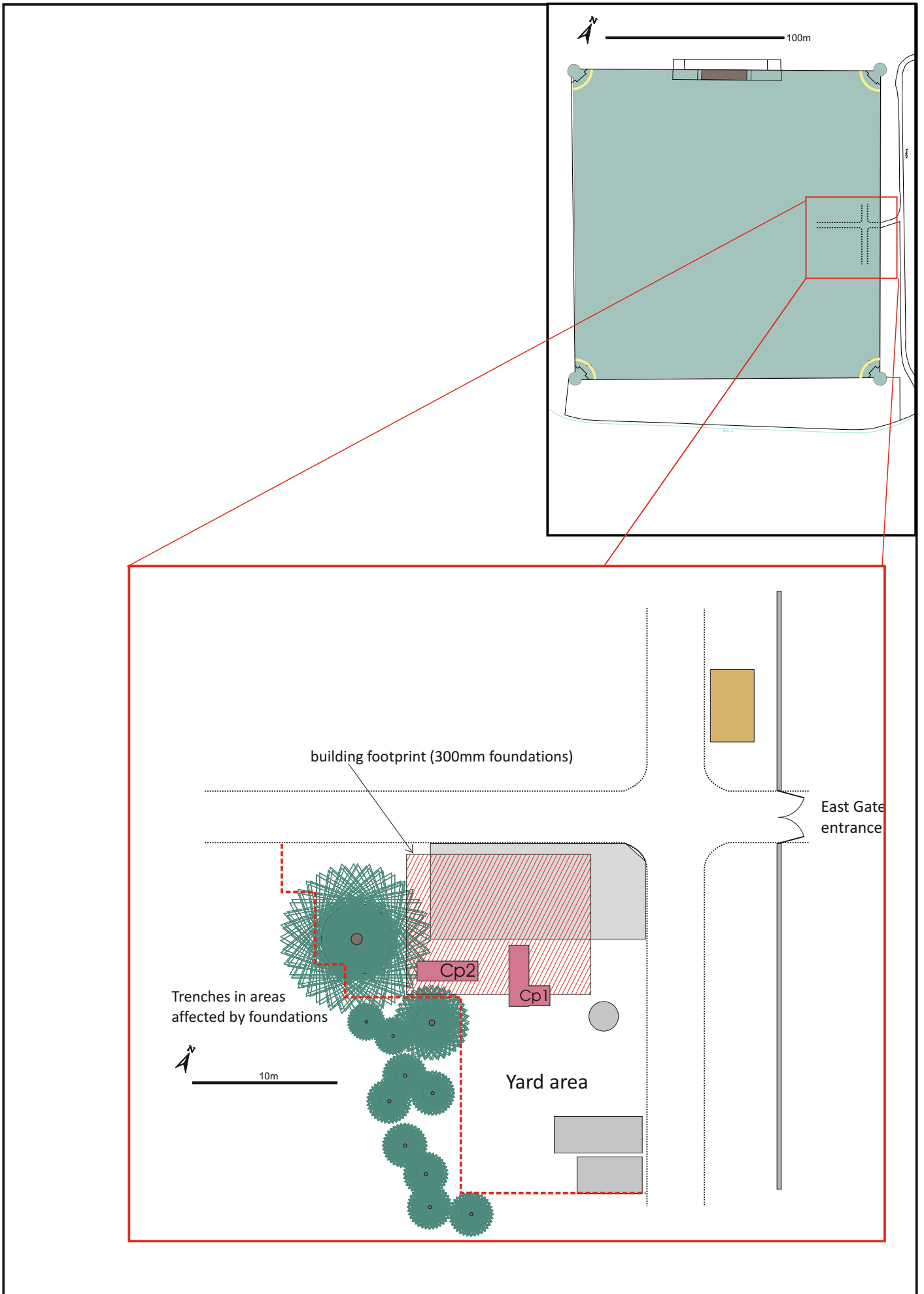


Figure2: Excavation Areas

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological excavation and surveys were undertaken between 3rd and 12th September 2013 and further work in February 2014, with reasonably dry weather conditions on both occasions.

4.2 Excavation

4.2.1 2 trenches were opened across the area where the structure is to be erected. No services are attached and foundations are kept to a minimum. The trenches CP 1 (3mx1m) and CP 2 (4m x 2m L shape) were excavated to subsoil and 200mm beyond.

4.2.2 Other than topsoil and subsoil, no layers were recorded. The topsoil was up to 300mm deep with light brown subsoil beneath – silty clay. The topsoil was charcoal rich and was evidence of the ploughing that took place in the 2nd world war (given the depth). The subsoil contained some larger sub angular stones relating to the underlying geology of glacial till.

Plate 3: CP2 subsoils



5 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

5.1 *Interpretation and Discussion*

- 5.1.1 The site within the 18th century walled garden has no archaeological features within the proposed development area.

6 FURTHER WORK

6.1 *Dissemination*

- 6.1.1 The results of this work will be synthesised and submitted to East Lothian Council, and the Amisfield Preservation Trust. In addition, précis will be submitted to DES and OASIS.

6.2 *Fieldwork*

- 6.2.1 Further excavation work will continue in the walled garden and further documentary research on both the gardening and building works within the garden and the wider landscape will be carried out. Further community engagement will allow many more people to feel they have taken an active part in the archaeology of the site and hopefully be encouraged to take part in more of the activities within the Amisfield Walled Garden.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Special thanks go to Doug Rocks-Macqueen and Stuart Dinning for assistance in teaching the students and recording.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

Amisfield Preservation Trust (2011), *Amisfield Park; Discovering a Hidden Landscape*

Forbes W Robertson EARLY SCOTTISH GARDENERS 1650-1750, p152;

Justice J, *The Scots Gardiners' Director*, 1754

APPENDIX 1

Context Register

Number	Code	Description	Dir.	Date
1	AWG13_Ex	Trench CP02 with topsoil removed down to subsoil	West	07/09/2013
2	AWG13_Ex	Trench CP01 with topsoil removed down to subsoil	North	07/09/2013
3	AWG13_Ex	Trench CP02 with topsoil removed down to subsoil	North	07/09/2013
4	AWG13_Ex	Trench CP02 with topsoil removed down to subsoil	East	07/09/2013
5	AWG13_Ex	Trench CP01 with topsoil removed down to subsoil	East	07/09/2013
6	AWG13_Ex	Area of investigation	Oblique	07/09/2013

APPENDIX 2: Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Report

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	East Lothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Amisfield Walled Garden
PROJECT CODE:	AWG11
PARISH:	HADDINGTON
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Connolly
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Connolly Heritage Consultancy
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Evaluation Trench
NMRS NO(S):	NT57SW 68
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	18 th - 19 th century Walled Garden
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 53314 74192
START DATE (this season)	September 2013
END DATE (this season)	February 2014
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	N/A
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	An archaeological investigation of the area of rough ground towards the Eastern interior of the garden. The garden has an area of 8 acres (3.24 hectares) completely enclosed by 16 foot (5m) high walls of dressed Garvald Freestone on the north wall and rough masonry on the other three elevations. The investigation prior to the erection of a temporary education centre showed no archaeological features to a depth of 550mm other than garden soils.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Further excavation and building recording of all pavilions and walls
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	--
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Connolly Heritage Consultancy, Amisfield Preservation Trust
ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Old Schoolhouse, Luggate Burn, East Lothian, EH41 4QA
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ARCHIVE LOCATION	RCAHMS , Connolly Heritage Consultancy