THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND

EAST LOTHIAN GARDEN & LANDSCAPE RECORDING PROJECT
RECORDING FORM

A. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION ***(Expand boxes as necessary)***
SITE NAME: Amisfield Park
ALTERNATIVE NAMES OR SPELLINGS: New Mills (pre 1713, John Adair circa 1680s)
ADDRESS AND POSTCODE: Amisfield Park, Whittingehame Drive, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 4PT.
GRID REFERENCE: NT 5292 7411
LOCAL AUTHORITY: East Lothian Council (Historical County Haddingtonshire)
PARISH: Haddington
INCLUDED IN '*THE INVENTORY OF GARDENS & DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN SCOTLAND*': No
TYPE OF SITE: *(eg. Landscaped estate, private garden, public park/gardens, corporate/institutional landscape, cemetery, allotments, or other – please specify)* Landscaped estate
SITE OWNERSHIP & CONTACT: *(Where site is in divided ownership please list all owners and indicate areas owned on map if possible)* East Lothian Council: Parkland leased to Haddington Golf Club Walled Garden leased to Amisfield Preservation Trust

Scottish Water

SIZE IN HECTARES OR ACRES:

85 ha

PUBLIC ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS/OPENING TIMES *(If any):*

Public right of way across Park from West Lodge to East Gate
Public footpath along east boundary
Walled Garden open Wednesday & Saturday mornings 10.00am to 12.00pm

NATIONAL & LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATIONS: *(eg. Conservation Area, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order(s), Nature Conservation Area, etc.*

Included within Haddington Conservation Area

LISTED STRUCTURES:

Amisfield Park Walled Garden Category A. Listed 5 February 1971 Ref: 10825
Amisfield House Stables Category B. Listed 5 December 1977 Ref: 10819
Amisfield Park Temple Category B. Listed 5 December 1977 Ref: 10826 (Summerhouse)
Amisfield Park Gothic Garden House Category B. Listed 5 December 1977 Ref: 10827 (Old Dovecot)
Amisfield Park Ha-ha Category B. Listed 2 February 2000 Ref: 46708
Amisfield Park Gothic Lodge Category B. Listed 12 August 1996 Ref: 43527
Amisfield Park Gates with Amisfield Cottage and West Lodge Category B. Listed 5 February 1971 Ref: 10818
Amisfield Park Ice House Category C. Listed 5 December 1977 Ref: 10828 (Force Pump)
Amisfield Park Boundary Walls Category C. Listed 12 August 1996 Ref: 43529
Amisfield Park East Gate Category C. Listed 5 December 1977 Ref: 10829
Amisfield Park Weir or Cascade Category C. Listed 12 August 1996 Ref: 43530
Amisfield Park Corby Well Category C. Listed 3 May 2001 Ref: 47924
Amisfield Mains Farmhouse Category C. Listed 12 August 1996 Ref: 43528

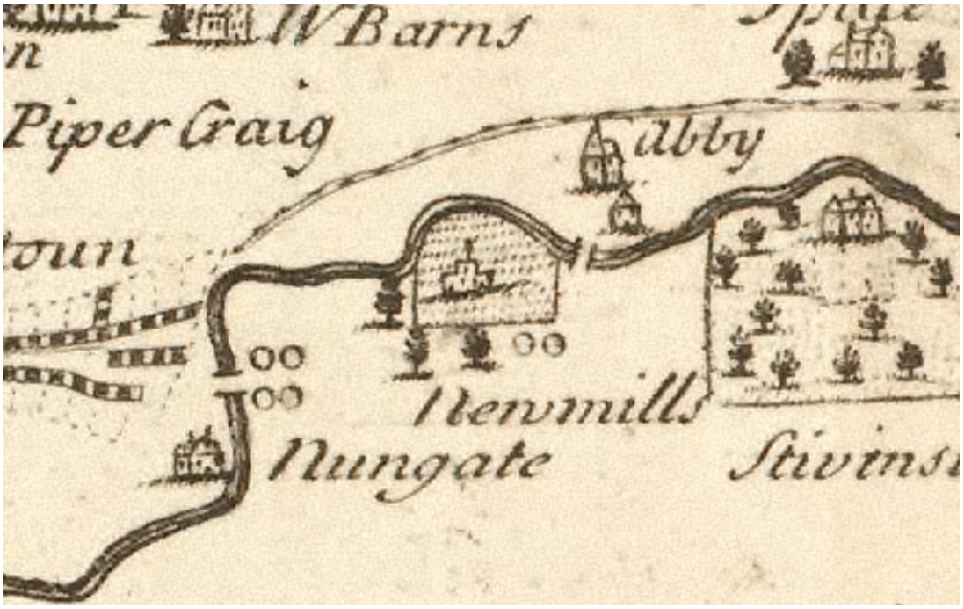
(All references Historic Scotland)

B. HISTORICAL SURVEY INFORMATION: MAPPED, DOCUMENTARY & PUBLISHED SOURCES

MAPPED SOURCES: *(please list maps below in date order and attach copies where possible. Give the description or title, date, maker's name if known, and for Ordnance Survey maps give the date of survey, edition number and sheet number)*

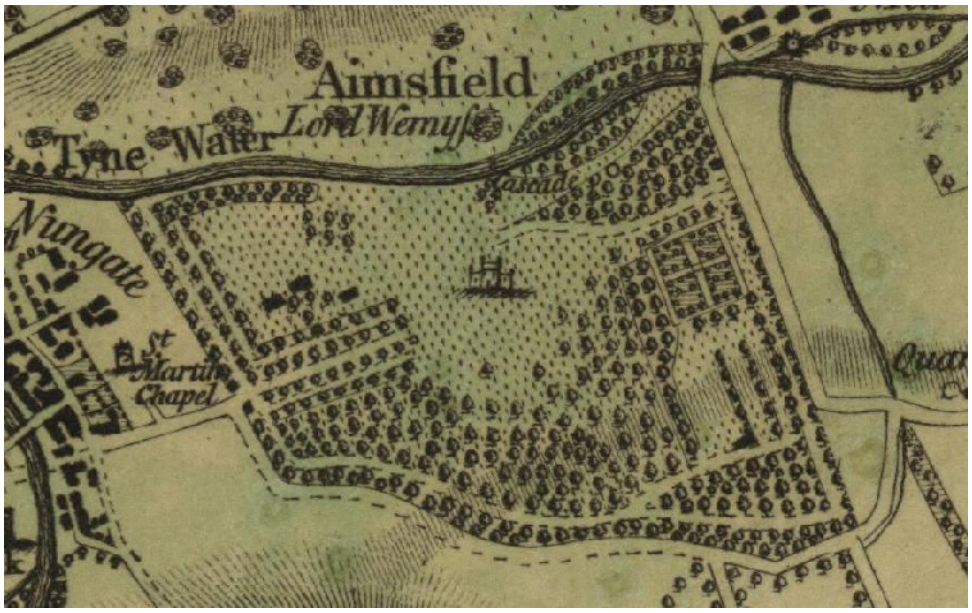
Unless otherwise stated all map images are reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

From East Lothian Authore Johanne Adair 1682



From A Map of East Lothian Survey'd by J Adair circa 1736

From William Roy's Military Survey of Scotland: Lowlands circa 1755
© British Library Board Cartographic Items Maps 175.t.3



From Map of Haddingtonshire 1799 William Forrest

Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland (1821) – John Ainslie http://maps.nls.uk/
Haddington (1822) – John Thomson http://maps.nls.uk/
Map of the County of Haddington (1824) – T, Sharp, C, Greenwood & W. Fowler http://maps.nls.uk/
Map of the County of Haddington (1844) – T, Sharp, C, Greenwood & W. Fowler http://maps.nls.uk/

From 1853 – 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Six" to 1 mile Sheet 10 Surveyed 1853 Published 1855

Ordnance Survey Second Edition Six Inches to One Mile Sheet X.NE Surveyed 1893 Published 1895

Ordnance Survey Six Inches to One Mile 1906 Edition Sheet X.NE Revised 1906 Published 1908

Ordnance Survey 25 Inches to One Mile 1906 Edition Sheet X.3 Revised circa 1906 Published 1907

Ordnance Survey 25 Inches to One Mile 1906 Edition Sheet X.7 Revised circa 1906 Published 1907

Ordnance Survey Six Inches to One Mile 1946 Edition Sheet X.NE Revised 1946 Probably Published circa 1950

From 1893 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25” to 1 mile Sheet X.3 Surveyed 1893 Published 1894

From 1893 Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 25” to 1 mile Sheet X.7 Surveyed 1893 Published 1894

PRIMARY & DOCUMENTARY SOURCES: *(plans, manuscript documents and other estate records) Please list material consulted in date order and attach copies where possible. Give description of material, and location and reference number of archival holding.*

Circa 1750 'Plan of Lands of Amisfield Crofts, Nunside and Sprotlands' – original at Gosford Huse, copy at National Records of Scotland NRS RHP 8769nd)

Cashbooks held at Gosford House:
Cashbook 2 1756-1763
Cashbook 3 1764-1773
Cashbook 4 1773-May 1798
Cashbook 5 1798 -14 August 1808

1783 'A Plan of Intended Improvements of the Gardens of the Honourable Francis Charteris esq. at his Seat at Amiesfield' James Shiells RCAHMS ELD/29/6

Plans of various hothouses possibly 1785 held at Gosford House
Various receipts for seeds, peach house frames, building works

1797 Plan 'Amisfield Pleasure Grounds' possibly John Ainslie – original at Gosford House, slightly different version at RCAHMS ELD/29/8

1872 Plan of Amisfield RCAHMS ELD/29/7

HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS & PICTORIAL SOURCES: *(drawings, paintings, photographs, aerial photographs etc. Include type, subject, artist, source or reference location, and date if known)*

1768 Drawing of north elevation, Amisfield House RCAHMS B41933

1906 Post card of Amiesfield Gardens showing greenhouses in walled garden

Undated photograph of south view of Amisfield House RCAHMS EL/2136
Undated photograph of Amisfield Stables RCAHMS EL/6139
Undated photograph of north view of Amisfield House RCAHMS EL/2135

1947 Aerial Photograph RCAHMS Sortie CPE/Scot/UK205

1975 Photograph of Summerhouse RCAHMS EL/6132

circa2012 Google and Bing Maps Satellite Imagery

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLISHED SOURCES: *(Statistical Accounts, Gazetteers, Directories, Travel Accounts etc.) Please list publications consulted in alphabetical order. Include details of author, title, journal or periodical, and date, volume/edition and page numbers where relevant.*

A Tour Through Scotland – R Pococke (1760)

Statistical Account of Haddington in The Statistical Account of Scotland ed. Sir John

Sinclair (1791-99) vol 6 pp535-554
The Parish of Haddington in The New Statistical Account of Scotland, Rev R Lorimer & Rev J Cook (1834-35) vol 2 pp1-17
Amisfield Park: Discovering a Hidden Landscape - Amisfield Woodland Group (2001)

Amisfield Walled Garden Historic Survey & Development Plan – Peter McGowan Associates (2006)

PRINCIPAL PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT:

Circa 1715-1730 Extensive tree planting carried out including avenues and perimeter plantations.
1750s Landscape remodeled as setting for new Amisfield House. Ornamental gardens laid out to south of house. Perimeter plantations extended. Kitchen garden to north east of house.
1783 New walled garden built to east of house.
1915-1920 Much of policy woodland felled.
1924 Amisfield House demolished.
1969 Amisfield Park sold to Haddington Town Council. Parkland used as golf course.

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS/DESIGNERS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE: *(please reference source of information)*

Probable architect was Sir Isaac Ware who included a design for Amisfield House in *A Complete Body of Architecture, London (1768)*. The builder was John Baxter according to Cashbook 2.

John Henderson was the archirect for alterations to Amisfield House in 1783 and was probable architect of Walled Garden.

Landscape designer unknown, although payments were made to James Sheills, Thomas White and Mr Wilson (gardener to Countess Glasgow) among others.

ORAL RECORDS/REMINISCENSES *Please include a list of any people interviewed during the course of research/survey work. Include name and role of interviewee (eg. family member, former employee, local resident), date of conversation and major dates, features or events recalled. Attach a transcript of the conversation if possible.*

Robert Steedman, farmer at Abbey Farm interviewed by Norman Lawrie, July 2000. Reminiscences of walled garden during WW2 and after. In Amisfield Preservation Trust Records.

C. SITE SURVEY ***Use map provided to mark positions and boundaries. Take photographs where possible.***

ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS ***Note the materials used, the dates and styles of various phases of development, and category of listing if appropriate***

PRINCIPAL HOUSE OR BUILDING:

Amisfield House. Palladian mansion built1755 in red sandstone. Demolished 1928.

OFFICES *(stables, outbuildings, etc):*

Amisfield House Stables. Two storey U-plan stable block. Coursed rubble clinkstone with slate roof. Built 1785 to design by John Henderson. Category B Listed.

HOME FARM OR MAINS:

Amisfield Mains Farm. Category C listed.

Amisfield Mains Farm

BOUNDARIES *(External & internal; estate walls, ha-has, park fences etc.):*

Estate wall. Random rubble. Category C Listed.

Estate Wall

Drain (referred to as ha-ha). Random rubble stone wall planted with Hawthorn Hedge. Category B Listed.

Drain or Ha-Ha

GARDEN BUILDINGS *(Summer houses, view houses, temples, grottoes etc):*

Summer House. Roofless red sandstone rococo summerhouse with vaulted cellar. Built 1750's. Category B Listed.

Summer House

Old Dovecot. Roofless crenellated stone folly. Possible once used as dovecot. Category B Listed.

Old Dovecot

Force Pump, also referred to as Ice House. Category C Listed.

Force Pump

CHAPELS/MAUSOLEUMS/BURIAL GROUINDS:

None

CONSERVATORIES/FERNERIES:

None

GARDEN STATUARY *(Fountains, statues, sundials, monuments etc.) Note any inscriptions:*

None

BURIAL GROUNDS/CEMETERIES *(Note principal memorials and headstones with inscriptions where possible):*

None

BRIDGES:

None

TERRACES *(Including steps & stairways):*

None

WALLED GARDENS *(Including potting sheds, bothies, glasshouse ranges etc.):*

Constructed 1780's. 3.2 ha (8 acre) garden enclosed by 5m high stone walls. Category A Listed.

Corner Pavilions. Four neo-classical stone pavilions. Cylindrical plan with Doric 6-columned porticos. Originally with domed roofs, now lost. Category A Listed.

Walled Garden Corner Pavilion

Bothies/Potting Shed (part demolished). Ruins of lean-to range of bothies on exterior of north garden wall.

AVENUES, CARRIAGE DRIVES, ORNAMENTAL WALKS, SERVICE DRIVES ETC:

West Avenue

Service drive

West Avenue

ROCKERIES:

None

WATER FEATURES *(natural & man-made including rivers, cascades, lochs, pools etc.):*

Cascade. Weir constructed in 1750's to power force pump and as an ornamental landscape feature. Category C Listed.

Cascade

ANY OTHER FEATURES NOT INCLUDED ABOVE *(Include any historic or modern feature and indicate use where possible):*

Gothic Folly. False fronted agricultural building. Category B Listed.

Gothic Folly

PLANTED ELEMENTS*: **The garden or park should divide up naturally and historically into different areas, e.g. ornamental gardens, parkland, walled garden, policy planting. Each area should be delineated on a plan and current use noted**.*

1. ORNAMENTAL GROUNDS

GRASSED AREAS *(Lawns, meadows, terraces):*

None

FLOWER BEDS *(Indicate theme or type – parterres, perennial herbaceous border/annual bedding where possible. Note whether significant plant collection):*

None

SHRUBBERY INCLUDING HEDGES & TOPIARY *(Include details of height, species etc. if possible):*

None

ORNAMENTAL TREE PLANTING *(Single specimens, groups – include details of age and species if possible):*

None

AVENUE PLANTING *(May also cross parkland and policy planting. Note predominant species and whether single or double planted if possible:*

Western avenue. Double line of Common Lime (many trees lost south of the drive). Some more recent replacements include Beech and Oak.

Eastern service drive. Mature conifers line north side of drive, including Wellingtonia, Grecian Fir, Douglas Fir and Corsican Pine.

ANY OTHER ORNAMENTAL PLANTING FEATURE NOT COVERED ABOVE:

None

KITCHEN GARDENS AND ORCHARDS

KITCHEN GARDENS *(walled, hedged or other boundary. Note any other historical features and current use)*

Walled garden

ORCHARDS *(walled, hedged or other boundary. Note any other historical features and current use)*

None

C3. PARKLAND

GRASSED AREAS *(Note current use, amenity grassland, agricultural use – grazing, cultivation etc.):*

Now golf course – Haddington Golf Club.

Extended parkland north of River Tyne shown on 18/19th century plans now arable farmland.

TREE PLANTING *(Individual specimens, clumps, belts, roundels etc. Note species if possible, and whether fenced):*

Individual mature parkland trees, mainly Oak and Lime. Also Larch, Douglas Fir and Wellingtonia.

ANY OTHER PARKLAND FEATURE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE:

None

C4. POLICY WOODLAND PLANTING

COMPOSITION *(Note composition of woodland; deciduous/coniferous/mixed, and principal species if possible. Note current use eg. commercial timber cropping/amenity woodland):*

Policy woodlands were felled during and after WW1. Most woodland has developed from self-seeded Sycamore and Ash, with understory of Rhododendron ponticum and Snowberry. Two significant clumps of mature Field Maple to the east of the walled garden. No commercial cropping.

ANY OTHER POLICY WOODLAND FEATURE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE:

None

C5. VIEWS, VISTAS, BORROWED LANDSCAPE & PERIPHERAL AREAS

KEY VIEWS *(please note views inwards to the house, outwards from the house, and internally within the landscape):*

View along west avenue to St Mary's Church, Haddington.
View to Gothic Folly on former Edinburgh to London post road.
View from former post road to Amisfield House.

BORROWED LANDSCAPE *(please note any features, natural or man-made, lying outside the designed landscape which act as eye-catchers or contribute to the outward views):*

Gothic Folly
St Mary's Church Tower

PERIPHERAL AREAS *(please note any features lying outside the main landscape but which are clearly designed eg. regularly spaced roadside/field boundary trees, estate walls etc.):*

Estate walls to north of Amisfield Kennels.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON CURRENT CONDITION OR CARE OF THE LANDSCAPE

Small areas of the original estate have been sold, including the Scottish Water sewage works to the north of the walled garden and a small area of housing south of the West Lodge. The parkland is managed as a golf course and specimen trees are generally well maintained and replaced, however the west avenue requires a programme of replacement planting. Perimeter woodland at the eastern and southern boundaries is neglected and invasive Rhododendron and Snowberry is preventing natural regeneration. There has been some recent planting of native tree species to the east of the walled garden.
Garden buildings are generally in a poor and degenerating condition. The Amisfield Preservation Trust has restored the summer house as a stable ruin and has begun to restore the walled garden. Corner pavilions in the walled garden are roofless and have been damaged by vandalism. The garden walls are generally in a good condition, although cope stones have been lost in the south east corner of the walled garden. The stables are now in a poor state of repair. Estate walls are repaired on an ad hoc basis.

SURVEY DRAWINGS AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS

Please include a list and copies where possible of any drawings, photographs made/taken during the ground survey.

A selection of survey photographs is included in this document. A full set of photographs is available, together with a copy of this recording form in East Lothian Archives, The John Gray Centre, Haddington.

D. SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE SITE ***This section should be set out in chronological form and should include information on the way the site has developed and changed since it was first recorded, using dates and maps where possible. The names of owners, architects or designers involved, and relevant historical events should be recorded, and the sources noted.***

In the 12th century the estate formed part of the lands belonging to the Abbey of Haddington.

In the 1560's the land was sold to William Maitland of Lethington (Lennoxlove) and again in 1681 to Colonel James Stanfield who established a large woolen mill by the River Tyne and built New Mills House.

In 1713 the estate was bought by Colonel Francis Charteris who changed its name to Amisfield after his ancestral home in Dumfriesshire. Extensive tree planting carried out including avenues and perimeter plantations.

Amisfield House was built in in 1755 for Francis Charteris (later 7th Earl of Wemyss) by John Baxter to designs by Isaac Ware and the landscape remodeled to create sweeping parkland. The course of the River Tyne was altered and the cascade and force pump constructed, various pavilions and summerhouses set in the landscape, ornamental gardens created to the south of the house, perimeter plantations extended and a kitchen garden laid out to the north east of the house.

A new walled garden was built by John Henderson in 1783 to the east of the house, replacing the kitchen garden, He also undertook alterations to Amisfield House and built the Stable courtyard.
In 1865 the parkland began to be used as a golf course.

The army requisitioned Amisfield House in WW1 and much of the woodland was felled, Amisfield House being demolished in 1924.

In 1944 Amisfield Park was used as a prisoner of war camp and later as a displaced persons camp. The walled garden was ploughed and used to grow grain, and later as a market garden.

Amisfield Park was sold to Haddington Town Council in 1969. The parkland continued to be used as a golf course and the town sewage works were built on the banks of the River Tyne.

During the 1980's the walled garden was planted as a tree nursery and in 1999 Amisfield Preservation Trust established with the objective of preserving and restoring Amisfield Park and its buildings for public benefit.

NAME:

Kate Rycroft Amisfield Preservation Trust & East Lothian Landscape and Garden Recording Project under the auspices of The Garden History Society in Scotland

DATES OF GROUND SURVEY WORK:

December 2010

DATE RESEARCH COMPLETED:

December 2010