THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND

EAST LOTHIAN SURVEY OF GARDENS & DESIGNED LANDSCAPES
RECORDING FORM

A. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION ***(Expand boxes as necessary)***
SITE NAME: Muirfield Gate
ALTERNATIVE NAMES OR SPELLINGS: The Pleasance
ADDRESS AND POSTCODE: Private ownership
GRID REFERENCE: NT 4889 8347
LOCAL AUTHORITY: East Lothian (Historical County Haddingtonshire)
PARISH: Dirleton
INCLUDED IN *AN 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)* Private garden

SITE OWNERSHIP & CONTACT: *(Where site is in divided ownership please list all owners and indicate areas owned on map if possible)*

Private ownership

SIZE IN HECTARES OR ACRES:

0.39 hectares (0.98 acres)

PUBLIC ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS/OPENING TIMES (If any):

Private property, no public access

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

1981 Tree preservation order No.44 Duncur Road. Part of the original The Pleasance on housing plots:
T1: Beech
G1: 3 Elm, 1Ash, 1 Sycamore;
G2: 3 Norway Spruce
G3: 6 Lime, 3 Elm, 1 Sycamore, 1 Hawthorn, 1 Corsican Pine (between wall and Duncur road on verge)

LISTED STRUCTURES:

Gullane, Duncur Road, Muirfield Gate and Gatehouse/Garage (Formerly Known as The Pleasance) Category A Listed. 7 December 1988 Ref: HB1385
http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0::::BUILDING,HL:1385,Muirfield%20Gate

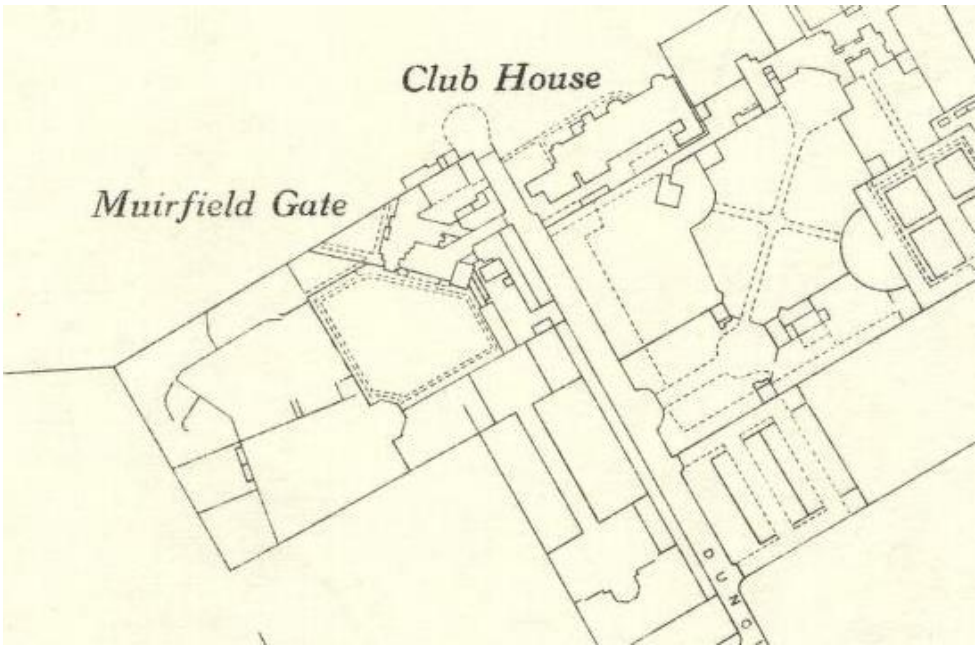
B. HISTORICAL SURVEY INFORMATION: MAPPED, DOCUMENTARY & PUBLISHED SOURCES

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 extracts from map images are reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland

Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions 25 inches to One mile Haddingtonshire Sheet 003.13 Revised 1892, Published 1894
http://maps.nls.uk/view/82885029#zoom=4&lat=7651&lon=9372&layers=BT

Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions 25 inches to One mile Haddingtonshire Sheet 003.13 Revised circa 1906, Published 1907
http://maps.nls.uk/view/82885032#zoom=5&lat=8482&lon=8788&layers=BT



Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions 25 inches to One mile Haddingtonshire
Sheet 003.13 Revised circa 1938, Published 1945
http://maps.nls.uk/view/82885035#zoom=5&lat=8328&lon=8584&layers=BT

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.*

National Records of Scotland (formerly National Archives of Scotland):
Sydney Mitchell diary from 1930 GD492/51

Letters sent by Arthur Mitchell from house 7 August 1899, further letters to Lord Bute, and letters dated 8, 10 August GD 492/117
Will of Sydney Mitchell 1930 p251 SC40/43/16 p 251
Inventory 1930 SC40/40/45 p 548
Sale of land 1897 RS100 138/58 & 140/115
Piece of land along Duncur Road solely for garden use 1911 RS 100 229/73
Completion of land purchase up to 4 acres including rights to take seaware from the shore 1915 RS100 252/48

RCAHMS:
Plans for ground floor of house DP 081175 25/8/1897, DP 081177 25/8/1897
PA 229/2/46/1
Image of the doocot on garage roof 4/1970

East Lothian Council Planning Archive:
Heightening of wall at Muirfield Gate (MG) boundary 162/1967
Erection of a house at Muirfield Gate – no plans 240/1967
Alteration to Muifield Gate cottage 43/1968
Muirfield Green demolition & replacement of greenhouse 47/1975
Planning permission in principal for 2 houses to be erected 533/1976
Muirfield Wood erection of new house 517/1978 & 233/1979
Lawn Cottage in grounds of Muirfield Wood 97/1983
Muirfield Gate cottage new conservatory over a swimming pool 602/1985
Rebuilding and restoration of house and garden walls 11/00129/LBC, 11/00129/P, 12/00084/LBC, 12/00138/P, 12/00692/LBC, 12/00692/P

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

RCAHMS:
1904 Bedford Lemere images RCAHMS BL 15083, 15082 (SC 680153 & SC 680155)
1911-12 Country Life images RCAHMS COL 81051-8 (835354-60 & 853334)

RCAHMS Vertical Aerial Photograph Collection:
TARA RCAHMS OS 62033 0145 1 May 1962
TARA RCAHMS 540/0718 3191 1952
TARA RCAHMS 106G UK 0020 5306 1946

Muirfield Golf Club Archive at NLS:
ACC 12739 #51, # 52, #58, Aerofilms aerial (part) c1954 with 1 May 1956 on back

Scran:
Image of Harold Macmillan at Muirfield Golf Club 2 June 1954 The Scotsman 000-000-060-118R: 050104816,050140818

Three images of Muirfield Wood House 1980. Private collection

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.*

McWilliam, Colin *Lothian Except Edinburgh: The Buildings of Scotland Series* 1978
Pevsner Architectural Guides p230
Muthesius, H *Das Englische Haus* 1905
Biography of Sydney Mitchell on RCAHMS website
Taylor, Kristina *Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane (formerly the Pleasance) History and Significance* 2010 Lodged in the John Gray Centre, Haddington.

PRINCIPAL PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT:

1897 house completed although alterations continued until 1915.
1954 part house demolition and garden make-over by Kate Hawkins
1970 onwards Plots sold off and a variety of housing built on the wider garden.
2010-2013 restoration of house.
Complete re-design of garden and moving of garden wall 4m to north-west, re-erection of fencing as to 1911 photos, re-paving as per 1907 of garden paths.
Re-building of Flower corridor and pavilions

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

Arthur George Sydney Mitchell (1856-1930)
http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200197
His own house and garden completed in 1897 but altered successively throughout his life.
Flower corridor and extension demolished circa1954
Kate Hawkins garden design mid-1950
Liz Dorrian and Kristina Taylor re-design of garden 2010-2013
Lindsay Buchan Architect Edinburgh Restoration of House 2010-2013

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.*

Gardener's son from 1950s
Date of conversation 23 August 2010
He is the son of the gardener, at Muirfield cottage and lived there for about 12 years from 1954. The employer was Mr Peter Pitman.
He remembers the Thistle, Clover and Maple leaf details in the paving but not the Rose detail in the front garden in the paving.
The sundial is 'new'
Wall and coping stones around the garden as was, original garden gates were oak.
In the golf course garden there was chesnut paling with Ivy, particularly against the boundary wall with Muirfield Wood where the west boundary was originallychestnut paling and Ivy. There was no fence dividing the front garden diagonally.
No fence remained along the front with Muirfield golf course it was just a wall
Pebbles came from the beach. They were much smaller than the gravel and he remembers the path on either side of Duncur road used to be dressed similarly.
Paths: All the crazy paving paths were in the garden and the path along the south of house is original and that went up along to the south wall gate.
He remembers the swimming pool.
The greenhouse was on the other side of the wall. i.e. in 'stables'.
(possible explanation there were 2 greenhouses originally one on each side of the wall and at that time the original to the west side must have already been taken down.

He remembers that the existing Holly Hedge dividing Muirfield Green from Muirfield Gate was more three or four individual different Holly trees and that it has grown into a hedge.
Curved structure to south of south extension along Duncur Road, i.e. the Nymphaeum. Curved wall ran out with wings to join the two walls on each side (ie road wall and field wall) nine feet tall. It had a half ellipse, hole, and oyster shells stuck up in the ceiling Slight roof at the back to form a neuk.

Daughters of Peter Pitman resident in house 1954-1970
Interviewed 17 August 2010
Mrs Pitman took down the flower corridor and sold the lead.
Lord Pitman must have dropped the ceiling in the drawing room as remembered as all one room.
Mrs Pitman had a flower room in the inglenook which Lord Pitman had created.
Inside the house was all very gloomy with dark green Hessian and sea grass on the floor.
There was a round stone structure (nymphaeum) at the south end of the vegetable patch where the chicken sheds were. It was taken down and the stones recycled in another wall.
The circular paving detail on the terrace where flower corridor had been came from beyond the south-west garden door where there was a sundial and Rose beds.
Mr Pitman sold two plots of ground and then Lawn Cottage.
Planning application was applied for to increase the height of the extreme west boundary wall which Mr. Pottinger objected to.
No wall where the diagonal is on the front lawn
Air-raid shelter in the woodland garden.
The garden at Muirfield Gate was absolutely wonderful
Kate Hawkins did the plans for Muirfield Gate and Muirfield Wood, but very little of the planting left. Mrs Pitman changed the drive because she didn't like anybody looking in and planted Canary Bird roses.

Owner 1970-2010
Interviewed 30 July and 11 August 2010
Muirfield Gate was the name in 1970.
She put up the east fence to Duncur Road as it was a low wall covered in Ivy and the caddies used to throw rubbish in there. Originally there had been a hedge which had been cut down a couple of times.
'This drive in was on both sides all Canary Bird rose (early yellow species rose) with Catmint in front'. It was stupendous and had been there since Mrs Pitman's day.
Kate Hawkins designed the whole garden.
She put in the Rose hedge along the golf course boundary fence a bush rose with small pink double flowers (probably a Rosa pimpinellifolia or Scotch Burnett rose.
'This is a very sheltered garden.....we notice that there is a difference when we take dog out around the corner.'
She never touched the paving but rebuilt the wall along where the flower corridor had been and created holes in the cope for planting Aubretia.
She planted Cistus ladanifer in place of Senicio greyii balls along the south terrace.
Blue Cedar planted circa 1972-4 in place of triangular heath bed. She was going to take it

down this year as too big. Originally the tree shaded the green house and the green house was put up to deal with people next door in 1976. The original green house had old fashioned cranking system to open the vents and an enormous water tank which was taken out and thrown away.
Fruit cage replaced a border.
Garrya elliptica she planted along south wall and pruned very hard one year to come away.
She planted Lily of the Valley along south wall and a variety of Peony and the small Black Iris. Nerines along south wall facing north came from seed she flung in.
She planted the dark red tree Peony and Parthencissus henryii (which does well)
The west wall collapsed eight years ago and was repaired by Morin the builder not using lime mortar.
She removed a triangular rose bed from the lawn along the west side.
White and dark pink Escallonia in west bed were part of the Kate Hawkins design.
Sundial belonged to her uncle and not original to garden
Golf course garden: there was a rose bed along the length of the diagonal but it was removed. Thomasinian, Crocus, Aconites, Scillas and Daffodils, with a few Fritillarias and Snowdrops in the long grass.
Trees: took out five Scots Pine/Corsican Pine trees from here..... one on variegated bush and roots ground out.
Roe deer come into garden**.**
Trees protect house from wind a bit
Fence to west on Muirfield Wood boundary was put in to replace a broken down one of similar height.
Anderson shelter: To west of sycamore trees going north-south. Builder took off most of corrugated metal with saw but foundations still there.
Removal of a tree in the woodland necessitated using one of the club tractors to winch it over the wall out onto tee no 1., so there is a precedence for getting trees out onto golfcourse.
'I did think of making this a thyme walk as it grows all over the place.'
The gate to the golf course garden was wood, but not sure it was oak. The fence to the golf course was white post and rail two plank high.
High water table.

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:

Two-storey rambling plan English vernacular style house with first floor breaking eaves at intervals. Harled with battered base course, ashlar band course by entrances and tile-hanging to some gable heads. Flower corridor, Music room, combined with garage with original oak door.

Muirfield Gate

OFFICES *(stables, outbuildings, etc):*

None

HOME FARM OR MAINS:

None

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

Ten foot red stone walls with cope to south, west. South and south west arched doorways now blocked off. Internal wall running east-west with arched doorway through to the north with a new green oak door. This wall was realigned in 2012 three metres north to run along historic garden division line. To Duncur Road (east) a five foot green oak fence atop a low red stone rubble wall. To the golf course a four foot white painted oak fence restored to original (images 1911) with one restored and one existing gate pier.
The south wall and part of the west wall are from 1915. In 1970 there was some vertical extension of the garden walls to ten foot. To the north west a small section of wall was built to match existing and fencing was removed. A ten foot green oak trellis aboe a close board green oak fence with arched gateway connects the house to the 'moved' wall separating the golf course garden to the inner garden.

GATES/GATE LODGES:

Two new twelve foot red stone gate piers to match existing corner pier on Duncur Road.

Two ten foot green oak vehicle gates.

New Green Oak Vehicle Gates and New Stone Piers

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

New garden shed (2013) against east wall where the glasshouse had been.

CHAPELS/MAUSOLEUMS/BURIAL GROUNDS:

None

CONSERVATORIES/FERNERIES:

Flower Corridor with Acer griseum and Fern Bed in Foreground

Re-built flower corridor to connect house to Music room, paved with small herringbone second-hand Spanish terracotta tiles and without plants.
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):* Half circular new yellow stone patio on foot print of feature depicted on 1907 Ordnance Survey map.
WALLED GARDENS *(Including potting sheds, bothies, glasshouse ranges etc.):* None
AVENUES, CARRIAGE DRIVES, ORNAMENTAL WALKS, SERVICE DRIVES ETC: Drive and courtyard with 25mm granite sea gravel and one foot stone setts to edge flower borders.
ROCKERIES: None
WATER FEATURES *(natural & man-made including rivers, cascades, lochs, pools etc.):* None
ANY OTHER FEATURES NOT INCLUDED ABOVE *(Include any historic or modern feature and indicate past or current use where possible):* The original stone paths were re-laid including curved path at original front door. New crazy paved three foot paths laid over foundations of original paths removed in 1960-70

with old stone flags to match original, but in different design.

Clover Detail on North Path
Re-set with Pebbles

Maple Leaf Detail on North Path
Re-set with Pebbles

New curved oak bench on newly laid curved stone standing in front of south-west arched doorway.

Curved Bench in South-West Arched Doorway

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):*

Large lawn to south of house and lawn to north-west used as a croquet lawn. Wild bulb and grass in woodland to north-west of croquet lawn. Flower meadow to east of parking area under the Sycamore trees.

House and lawn from the South-west

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

Full details of the beds and planting listed in:
1. Appendix to *Muirfield Gate: History and Significance* Kristina Taylor (2010)
2. Muirfield Gate Planting Lists 2013
Both documents available in the John Gray Centre, Haddington.

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

Camellia planting on each side of drive behind vehicle gates (Camellia williamsii 'Donation' and unnamed dark red variety)

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

Twenty Prunus Shogetsu along south path (2011)

Cherry Avenue and Peony Bed with New Path

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

Two 100 plus year old Sycamore trees in front drive, six Apple trees (mm106) to east of lawn.

Sycamore and Front Fence

ANY OTHER ORNAMENTAL PLANTING FEATURE NOT COVERED ABOVE:

None

2. KITCHEN GARDENS AND ORCHARDS

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

None

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

None

3. PARKLAND

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

None

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

None

ANY OTHER PARKLAND FEATURE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE:

None

4. 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):*

None

ANY OTHER POLICY WOODLAND FEATURE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE:

None

5. VIEWS, VISTAS, BORROWED LANDSCAPE & PERIPHERAL AREAS,

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

House orientated to view of Forth Railway bridge 30 miles upstream through gap in trees

on Muirfield golf course.

View to Paps of Fife through oak door and trellis archway across Muirfield gold course.

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):*

Muirfield Golf Course, Firth of Forth and Fife from front garden.

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

The stable/gardeners cottage though joined to the property is under separate ownership but not listed and forms a boundary and backdrop to the garden on the east side.
Original ten foot stone walls to The Pleasance remain along Duncur Road. Dividing walls in two houses to the west of property and boundary of the whole property intact. The original garden of the house can still be read even though four new houses have been built on the 1915 site.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON CURRENT CONDITION OR CARE OF THE LANDSCAPE

Very good, maintained by the Grumpy Gardeners.

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 paper copy of this recording form in the John Gray Centre, Haddington.

The following additional documents are also available at The John Gray Centre:
2010 Site Survey Images
Muirfield Gate 2013 Site Survey
Muirfield Gate Planting Lists 2013
Taylor, Kristina 2010 *Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane, Formerly The Pleasance: History and Significance*

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.

Muirfield Gate, formerly The Pleasance was Sydney Mitchell's own house and garden built into existing woodland and developed in stages between 1897 and 1915, with additions and changes to both the house and garden over this period and accretions of land. Principal views to the north and north-west are to the Forth railway bridge. The flower corridor built in 1907 is unique in garden history and was exotically planted.

In the 1950s the flower corridor and north-east wing were demolished and a garden, with a new driveway to the house, was laid out by Kate Hawkins a pupil of Brenda Colvin and well-known Scottish designer.

In the 1970s the original grounds of four acres were divided up and four new houses built on the original land holding retaining the nine foot original outer walls along Duncur Road. The Nymphaeum in the south garden was removed and probably the stone recycled in new walling.

Between 2011 and 2013 the new owner re-built the flower corridor (without plants) and north-east wing of the house using Lindsay Buchan architects and a garden restoration designed by Kristina Taylor and Liz Dorrian was completed.

Full details of the history of the Muirfield Gate and its garden are contained in *Muirfield Gate, Duncur Road, Gullane, Formerly The Pleasance: History and Significance* Kristina Taylor (2010) in the John Gray Centre, Haddington.

Name:

Kristina Taylor

Dates of ground survey work:

2010 and 2013

Date research completed:

July 2013