

City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh

Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

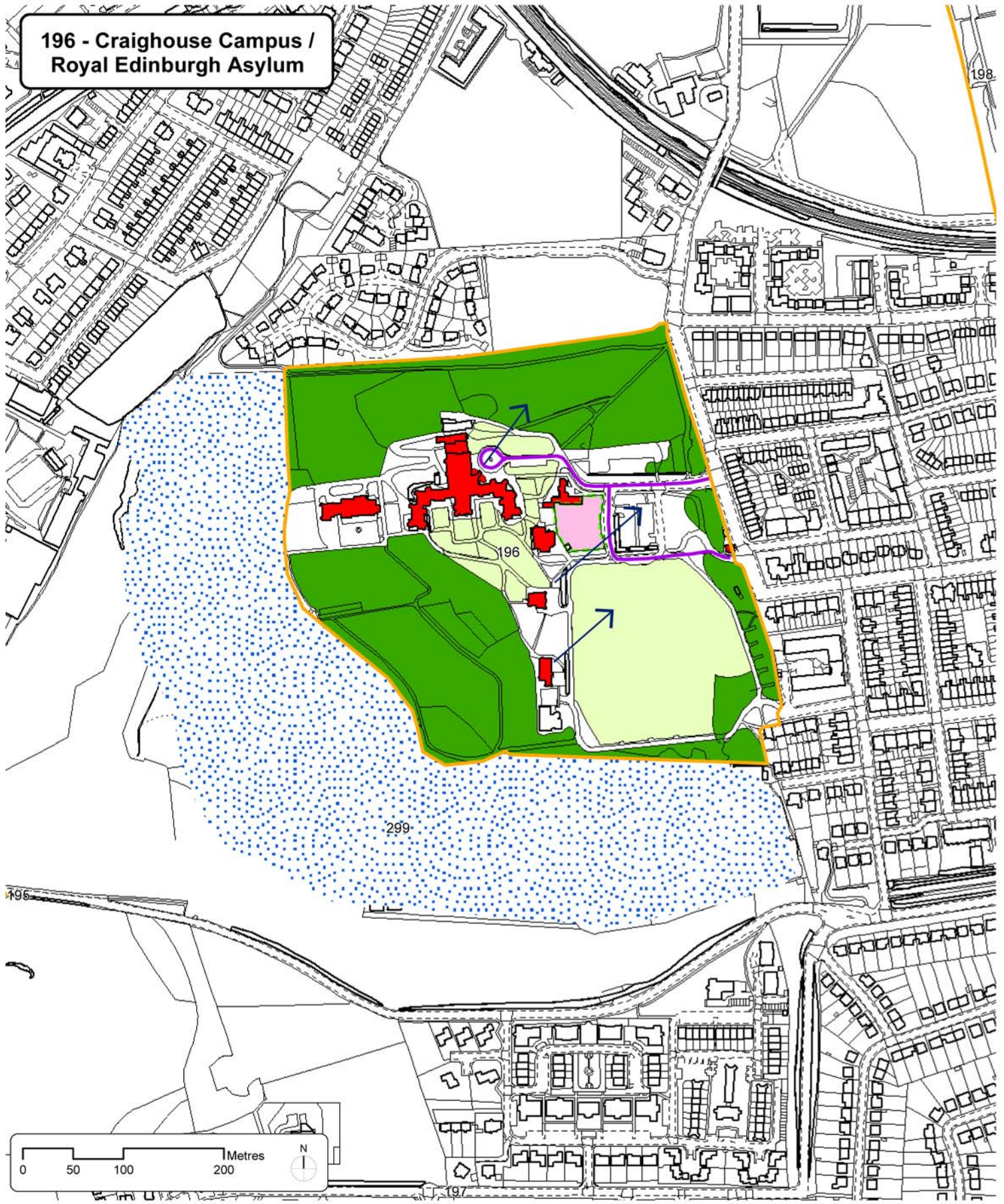
196 Craighouse Campus, Napier University
(The Royal Edinburgh Asylum)

Consultants














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Survey visit: September 2007

**196 - Craighouse Campus /
Royal Edinburgh Asylum**



Key

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|--------------------------|
|  | Site boundary |  | Essential setting |
|  | Ruined buildings |  | Site of former house |
|  | Principal buildings |  | Main drive |
|  | Gardens |  | Principal views or vista |
|  | Water |  | Panoramic View |
|  | Woodlands |  | Walled Garden |
|  | Parkland | | |

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**SURVEY OF GARDENS AND
DESIGNED LANDSCAPES**

Peter McGowan
Associates with
Christopher Dingwall

196 Craighouse Campus, Napier University
(The Royal Edinburgh Asylum)

Parish Edinburgh City Parish, later Edinburgh

NGR NT 2345 7066 Old Craig House
NT 2335 7068 New Craig House

Owner Napier University

Designations

Listing Craig House, Napier University, [includes Queen's Clinic, East Hospital, Bevan Villa, South Craig Villa, Lodge HS] A
Craig House (Old) A

Craiglockhart Hills Conservation Area

Area of Great Landscape Value

Local Nature Conservation Site

Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve adjoins on the west

REASONS FOR INCLUSION

A campus site with significant accessible woodland and open space on the north and east slopes of Easter Craiglockhart Hill that is prominent in views across the city and is of interest for Old Craig House and the late-19thC mental hospital buildings.

The names used for this and other hospitals in south Edinburgh can be confusing. The original Royal Edinburgh Asylum was built at the Tipperlinn/Morningside site (see 198, Royal Edinburgh Hospital). From 1878 when the Old Craig site was purchased and developed, this was also known as *The Royal Edinburgh Asylum*. Renamed *The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders* from 1922 then *The Thomas Clouston Clinic* from 1972.

LOCATION, SETTING AND EXTENT

Located in the south-west of the city on the north and east slopes of Easter Craiglockhart Hill with access on the east from Craighouse Road. Visible from many parts of the city and with fine panoramic views from the site and its buildings. The north part of the Merchants of Edinburgh Golf Club lies on the hill to south and the Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve adjoins on the west. Site area 16.6ha.

MAIN PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

Old Craig House probably mid-16thC in present form with mid-18thC extension. The Royal Edinburgh Asylum (and later names) developed in the later 19th century.



View over Edinburgh from the south part of the site

In 1993-94 the buildings became part of Napier University; the campus opened after renovation and conversion in 1996; only one new building from the modern period.

HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

The Craig House estate once belonged to Newbattle Abbey, and the land was granted to Hugh Douglas in 1526 (Weir). The original Craig House was set on fire in 1544 by the Earl of Hertford during the *Rough Wooing* before the English army crossed the Jordan burn and set fire to most of Edinburgh. Just one vaulted ground floor room remains from the earlier house (The Napier Estate), which was rebuilt by Laurence Symssoune (SCRAN); from c1685 it was owned by the descendants of Sir William Dick of Braid (Groome 295).

A lintel is dated 1565, but is considered earlier than the building (HS); Craig House was extended on the north-west in 1745, possibly for Sir James Elphinstone WS (Weir). Other owners have included Captain Stephen Bruntisfield, who held

Craighouse for Mary Queen of Scots and whose murder inspired one of the many ghost stories associated with the house, and the royal portrait painter, George Porteous. Its last private occupant from 1861-78 was John Hill Burton, Historiographer Royal in Scotland. In 1878, Craig House was bought and adapted for 'higher-class' patients by the Commissioners of Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum (Weir). It then became known as Old Craig House, to distinguish it from Mitchell's New Craig House.

When the 60-acre well-wooded Old Craig estate came up for sale in 1878, Thomas Clouston (1840-1915), the Physician Superintendent of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum in Morningside encouraged the board to purchase the site, which he later described as 'the most beautiful site in Edinburgh'. He worked closely with Arthur George Sydney Mitchell (1856-1930), official architect to the General Board of Lunacy in Scotland, on the design. The result was the vast chateaux-like hospital built 1888-94 on the side of Craiglockhart hill; this hospital replaced Robert Reid's East House at the Tipperlinn site as a hospital for paying patients. As well as the main building – New Craig House – there were two *hospital* buildings and three smaller houses or villas. In these – Bevan Villa, Queen's Craig for *gentlemen patients*, and South Craig Villa – patients could be accommodated in a stable environment (Richardson) all set in landscaped grounds (HS). Female patients were accommodated in East Craig House. In Craig House, the paying patients were treated to accommodation that resembled a country house or a hotel instead of a hospital, with additional facilities like a bowling alley, billiard rooms, dining and drawing rooms. This arrangement meant that patients could even have their own servants in attendance if they wished. The new asylum complex, which cost £150,000, was opened in 1894 by the Duke of Buccleuch.

Blaeu 1654

The high cost of maintaining the buildings and grounds, and the expense involved in updating its facilities led to the gradual decline of the Thomas Clouston Clinic. With the introduction of the Care in the Community programme and outreach centres from the 1980s the buildings became redundant and led to its closure in 1993 – almost a century after it had opened. The campus was acquired by Napier University in April 1994. It has been carefully restored and sensitively developed and opened in September 1996 to provide a 'total university experience' for some 1,200 students and staff.

The aims of the development plan for the campus were to convert, and add to, the existing buildings, landscape and infrastructure, to maintain and enhance the quality, character and setting of the existing buildings and the site, and to provide accommodation in a way which was consistent with the University's estate strategy, and with its aspirations for utility and amenity.

*Ordnance Survey 6" map
1882*

*Etching of Old Craig from
Cassell's Old and New
Edinburgh*



The development of Craighouse is a good example of a change of use of historic buildings. An Historic Buildings Grant was secured on the basis of the importance of Craighouse to Scotland's heritage. Alterations to the interior layout and details of the buildings were kept to the practical minimum and the overall cost of work at Craighouse by the end of 1996 was £14m.

Maps and Graphic Evidence

Craighouse or *Craig House* is shown on various early maps (Adair 1682, Armstrong 1773, Knox 1816 etc) generally in a tree-lined enclosure. 19thC Ordnance Survey maps show a garden to the south and a short formal approach from the east, with lands extending to tree-edged fields extending to near the summit of Easter Craiglockhart Hill. The OS Town Plan of Edinburgh 1893-94 shows [old] Craig House, New Craig House, Bevan Villa and South Craig Villa (all noted 'For the Insane') and Hospital building (Female) in an incomplete layout without all its roads and paths, having been surveyed near the time of the completion of construction, with the old house garden surviving together with a large kitchen garden to the east.



*Gates and lime avenue of Old
Craig*

An etching from *Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh* shows Old Craig with its east approach of lime trees. A similar photograph (in *The Napier Estate* from Lothian Health Services Archive, SCRAN) shows the east gate and a lime avenue leading to Old Craig.



The Norie panel

Although not depicting the Craighouse landscape, a series of four painted wooden panels by James Norie, probably commissioned for the house by Sir John Elphinstone, are of interest in the history of Scottish landscape painting. The Norie family ran a successful Edinburgh interior decoration business specialising in painting decorative panels and frames – often of landscapes. Some of their works were commissioned as topographical records of specific locations but most of their paintings are imaginative, idealised views. Many were designed as elements in interior decorative schemes, sometimes painted in monochrome rather than full colour. The one remaining panel in the Kincaid Room on the first floor of the north wing was restored by the University. Other Lothian houses with Norie panels include Arniston, Hopetoun, Newhailes and Yester.

COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

Old Craig



The University has 21 hectares of grounds at Craighouse, mostly defined by estate boundary walls, and including an extensive area of woodland (approximately 60% of the site area) on the north, south-west (hill side) and east. The principal buildings are arranged in a reversed L-shape related to the contours of the hillside with the modern approach from the east aligned with Old Craig and the north arm of the L. The massive New Craig block dominates the whole layout in this north arm.



Old Craig

Four storey central tower with three storey wings to north and east to form an L-shaped plan, of various dates from 16th to 18th century as noted above, all pink harled under slate roofs; main door with dated lintel at junction of tower and east wing.

The Royal Edinburgh Asylum

The Royal Edinburgh Asylum buildings completed in 1894 all remain in new University uses and are, from west to south-east, with their original use: Queen's Craig (clinic), New Craig (hospital), [Old Craig], East Craig (hospital, female), Bevan (villa) and South Craig (villa).

New Craig

The main former hospital block is a vast chateau-like building to an E-shaped plan with an additional wing projecting north from the straight side of the E, of two to four storeys in height, stepping with the slope of the site. A centrally placed tower rises to six storeys. It is built in a mad mix of styles with gothic and classical components, with no symmetry and a wildly varied roof-line with turrets, domes, towers, campanile, dormers, gables, pediments, balustrades and chimneys of many shapes and styles. Yellow sandstone for door and window surrounds, quoins, chimneys and all other architectural details, and red sandstone for the plain wall faces are used consistently. Roofs are slate with good use of leadwork detailing embellishing the complex roofline.

Queen's Craig, East Craig, Bevan and South Craig

These four villas or hospital buildings are each a substantial block of one to four stories, all in the same mixture of styles as New Craig and unified by consistent use of materials.

The whole complex was in keeping with Clouston's belief that variety was all important; hence the multiplicity of different detail, the choppy roof line and the different coloured materials, in red, biscuit yellow and green (HS). The whole has been described as 'demonstrating the restorative effects of architecture and landscape ... beautifully kept' (Gifford 74), and 'it is one of Dr Clouston's leading principles that in the treatment of the insane, their surroundings should be made as bright and pleasant as possible' (*Journal of Decorative Art* in Gifford 535).

Craighouse currently houses part of the School of Creative Industries with Communication Arts and Music courses based here. The campus is also home to many service departments including the University Principal's Office.

Other Buildings

The only addition to the 19th century hospital development is a modern recreation centre building to the south of South Craig.

*New Craig at main entrance
on north-east*



*East Craig (left), Bevan villa
and end of New Craig*



South Craig



Gate lodge

Lodge

Gate lodge in the mixed style of main buildings using the same yellow and red sandstones, built in 1887, standing at the east gates on Craighouse Road; wrought iron gates with stone gate-piers topped with acanthus and flame decorated urns. Gates are unused, except for pedestrian entry, having been replaced by a new vehicular entry to the north.

Dovecot

An 18th century dovecot, noted to be in ruins by 1975 (Canmore), remains to a height of several courses of harled stonework within the woodland on the hillside to the north of Old Craig.

Summerhouse

A hexagonal timber summerhouse stands in the former garden area on the south of New Craig that is now mostly car parking; glazed on five sides, painted turquoise green with white window frames and a tiled roof; external seats on two sides.



Summerhouse

Memorials

Memorial to William Kinninmond Burton, son of Dr John Hill Burton, Queen's Historiographer Royal for Scotland (see above), in front of Old Craig: a celebrated engineer who, among other pioneering projects, designed Japan's first skyscraper, *Ryounkaku*, literally 'Cloud-surpassing pavilion'.

Memorial to opening of campus as part of Napier University on 9 June 1997 by HRH The Princess Royal with a upper body bust of John Napier (1550-1617) mathematician and philosopher, donated by the sculptor Valentin Znoba and Mrs Janice Simpson of Elvingston; stands at the centre the large turning circle fronting the main door of New Craig.

Estate walls

A high estate wall runs beside Craighouse Road; other walls on the hill sides are lower rubble walls.

Drives and Paths

The present main approach for vehicles, including buses, is along the same line as the formal approach shown on the 19thC OS maps, although with the hospital development a new lodge, gate and drive was built to the south. It is not clear whether this served the whole site or was just a service entrance. Another gated entrance with stone gate piers lies further south and provides pedestrian access from Craiglea Place, has the name *Craiglea* on one pier. A narrow pedestrian gate on Craighouse Road near the north-east corner of the site gives access to paths through the north woodlands.



*Turning circle at main
entrance*

*Main approach on the line of
the old drive and lime avenue*





Main car park with LRC building, South Craig and Bevan villa in background

New Craig, Queen's Craig, East Craig and Bevan Villa are linked by wide underground passages designed to allow food to be brought from the central kitchens to all the villas except South Craig, which was the first asylum building to be completed and had its own large kitchen.

A main car park is located east of Old Craig with well-established enclosing clipped shrubs. Limited amounts of parking also existing close to the main buildings.

A comprehensive system of drives gives access to the north and south of the New Craig arm and to the east of the South Craig arm. Via these and the Craiglea entrance and north pedestrian gates an good system of surfaced paths (generally blacktop or drybound) leads through the site, its open space and woodland, to the paths on Easter Craiglockhart Hill.

Gardens and Policy Planting

Gardens

Mitchell's design provided each building with a sunny sheltered garden (Dev. Plan 2.3). Terraced gardens are shown next to the buildings on the 1914 OS maps. None of these remain. The garden of Old Craig has also gone, replaced by a lawn, although small box edged beds have been added near the entrance. The main drive is edged in low yew hedges.

Mature trees in the vicinity of the main buildings are perhaps survivors of more elaborate planting and include some good conifers (Cedar of Lebanon, Blue spruce, cypresses) and beech, birch, lime, oak, sycamore and whitebeam. Shrubberies include Portuguese laurel, cherry laurel, hebes, yew, golden yew and holly.

Parkland

A large open area of grassland in the south-east part of the site is an important component of the layout, enabling the open views that are a major attraction of the site and providing sitting out and recreation space for students, staff and local residents. A path subdivided the space in the 1930s and during the Second World War the south part was used as allotments during the *Dig for Victory* programme.

Tree Belts and Woodlands

Two main areas of woodland: north of New Craig and on south-west side of the site. The former slopes northwards and includes very large beech, elm, gean, large limes, horse chestnut and sycamore, with holly, ivy and privet. An old system of paths with old stone edges and lighting columns leads to the pedestrian gate on Craighouse Road. 20thC OS maps show that this land was open when the asylum was developed and that woodland has evolved gradually during the century with the large trees dating from the pre-hospital layout.



Cedar of Lebanon and south side of New Craig



Path through south-west woodland

The woods on the south-west are similarly composed, again with several paths, with a conifer block on the west of Queen's Craig. This woodland has developed from open ground in the later 20th century. This woodland continues as the Local Nature Reserve to the west, including Craiglockhart Wood (classified as 'long-established woodland of plantation origin' by Scottish Natural Heritage) and the boating pond, with path links via openings or gaps in the estate wall.

West of the campus Easter Craiglockhart Hill was declared a Local Nature Reserve in April 1995. The management of the reserve aims to promote the use of the area by walkers and enhance the wildlife value. There are way-marked trails offering panoramic views and several points of interest along the routes – as well as offering footpath access between Craighouse and Craiglockhart campuses.

Views and Vistas

Craighouse has outstanding views of over Edinburgh and the Forth seen over the well-treed parts of south city, from St Mary's Cathedral to Arthur's Seat and including the Fife and the East Lothian coasts; particularly good from the high part of the site near South Craig. It is said that the building entrances, halls and main rooms were planned to align with specific features of the Edinburgh skyline and this feature survives where not obscured at the lower level by growth of trees.

Visual Intrusions

Little intrudes in what is a well preserved campus layout, which is impressive for the lack of new buildings (not surprising when the hospital comprised 500 rooms). CCTV and lighting on poles and signs intrude locally to a degree.

PUBLIC ACCESS

The site is freely accessible with good access arrangements and information signs from the Craiglockhart (west) and Craighouse (east) sides, with good footpath links, and is well used by local people.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

Construction traffic on paths and damage to grass edges was occurring at the time of visit, although may be a temporary issue. Control of trees, particularly self-seeded sycamores, in order to keep views open, is an on-going issue, particularly in the lower parts of the site. Otherwise the campus is an exemplar in good management. There may be opportunities in restoring the setting of Old Craig to a greater degree.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overall

Craighouse is significant as the site of Old Craig, for the buildings of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum and its associated social history, and for its adaptation to new University uses, but perhaps most of all for its presence in views within Edinburgh and its accessibility to the people of the locality.

Work of Art

Some

Historical

High

Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural

Little

Architectural

Outstanding

Scenic

Outstanding

Nature Conservation

High

Archaeological

Some

Recreational

High

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Knox, *Map of the Shire of Edinburgh*, 1816 NLS

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Ordnance Survey 1877/1885 NLS

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Parish map OS (1898-1904) NLS

Ordnance Survey (1920) Sheet III SE NLS – paper copies

Ordnance Survey (1923/1926) 'Popular' edition: Edinburgh Sheet 74 NLS

NLS National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk

NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland

SCRAN Scottish Cultural Resource Access Network www.scran.ac.uk

History of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital from www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/histheal/hospital/reh.html

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