

City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh
Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

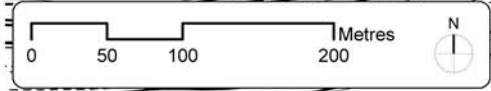
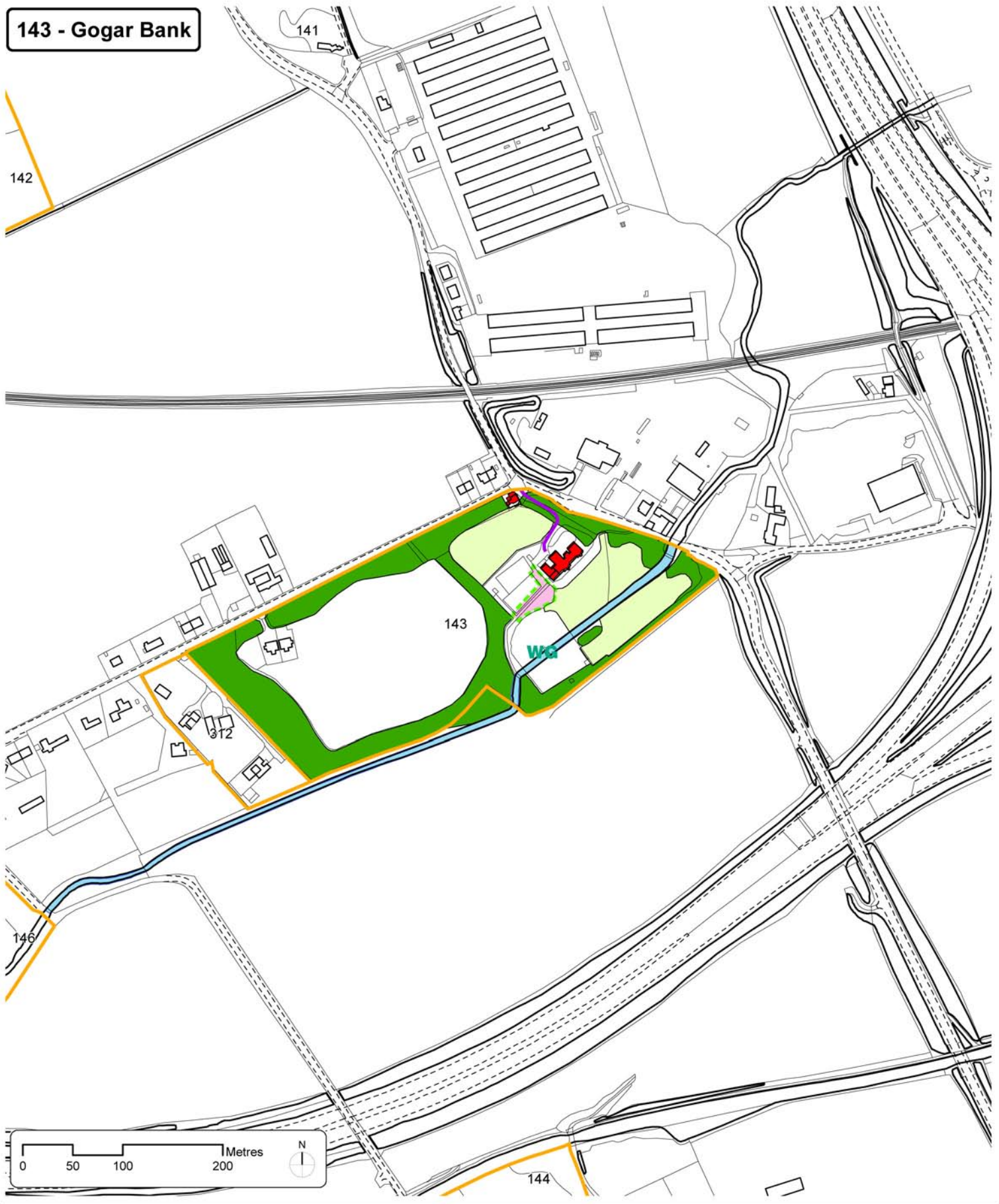
143 Gogar Bank House

Consultants

Peter McGowan Associates
Landscape Architects and Heritage Management Consultants
6 Duncan Street Edinburgh EH9 1SZ
0131 662 1313 • pma@ednet.co.uk
with Christopher Dingwall
Research by Sonia Baker

This report by Peter McGowan
Survey visit: July 2007

143 - Gogar Bank



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

143 Gogar Bank House

Parish Ratho, now Edinburgh
NGR NT 175 709
Owner Private residence owned by UK Government, Army
Designations
Listing Gogar Bank House with greenhouse B
Gogar North Lodge, Gogar Bank House C (S)
Gogar Bank House walled garden and bridges A
Green belt

REASONS FOR INCLUSION

A small designed landscape enclosed by tree belts that is typical of the urban fringe in the local area of west Edinburgh and contributes to its landscape character together with the other Gogar sites, and particularly associated with Kirklands House upstream along the Gogar burn to the west.

LOCATION, SETTING AND EXTENT

Gogar Bank House is to the north of the M8 and close to the Edinburgh city bypass (A720). It is accessed from Gogar Station Road, which itself is just off the A8 from Edinburgh. Gogar Bank is positioned on the north valley side of the Gogar Burn with lawns sloping down to the burn south of the house. Suntrap Garden (312) lies a short distance to the west, with Kirklands House (146) beyond. The other Gogar sites – Gogar Mount, Gogar Park, Castle Gogar – are located further north either side of the Glasgow Road (A8) and north of the railway. Site area 7.9ha.

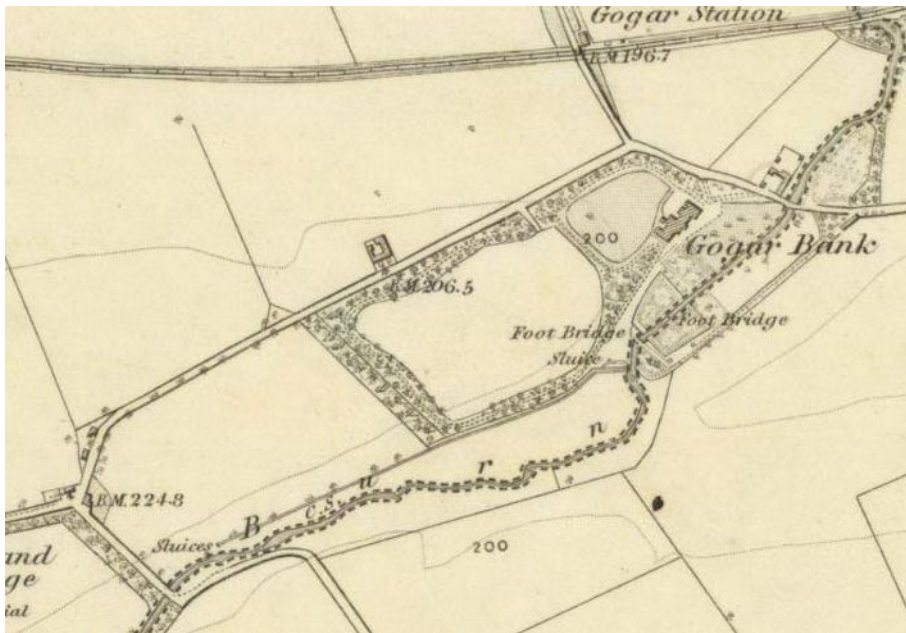
MAIN PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

Late-18th century; early- and mid-19th century.

HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Gogar Bank House was built towards the end of the 18th century, possibly around 1775 when the road between Gogar Bank and Saughton was realigned. By 1791, Cumberland Reid, brother of Alexander Reid of Rathobyres, was listed as one of the heritors of Ratho parish and 'of Gogarbank' (OSA 417). Another reference relates to Gogar Bank farm, which is located on the opposite side of the road to the north of Gogar Bank House. In 1795 this was also owned by Cumberland Reid and tenanted by Alexander Dudgeon.

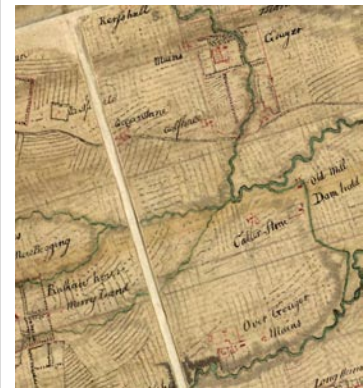
The earliest Gogar Bank House was a modest two-storey, plus basement, building, built of whinstone and sandstone random rubble. The late 1800s alterations – the bowed wings – seem to be the work of architects and builders Watherston (DSA) and were instigated by Cumberland's 'profligate nephew' John Reid, the owner of Gogar Bank in 1819 (NAS RHP85546)), who also built the walled garden. Between 1821 and 1824 the owner was Peter Ramsay. Sir William Fettes, twice Provost of the city of Edinburgh, bought Gogar Bank House in 1824 and died there in 1836. A number of tenants followed, of whom a Mr Naismyth contributed by building the stables and developing the garden (GBH booklet). Other tenants included William Pitt Dundas (1851, 1852), John Clerk Brodie WS (1868) and J Hamilton in 1902. In 1930, James Risk sold the house and estate – though much reduced – to the army, who remain its owners today. Gogar Bank House is the Official Service Residence (OSR) for the General Officer Commanding Scotland (GOC) and Governor of Edinburgh Castle.



Ordnance Survey 1st edition
6" map 1852-53

Maps and Graphic Evidence

Blaeu's map of 1654 shows houses at Gogar and Nether Gogar, while Adair's manuscript map of 1682 shows *Gogar*, *Gogarston*, *Gogartoun*, *Gogar M[ount]* and *Over Gogar*. Roy's map c1750 shows *Gogarstane* and *Gougar* located north of the road to Glasgow, the latter with a basic designed landscape, and with *Over Gougar* to the south, west of Gogar Bank (not shown) – all lying among open fields. Sharp Greenwood and Fowler (1828) shows a house at the east end of the land between the local road and Gogar burn with a paddock enclosed by tree belts to the west. The 1st edition OS map 1852-53 adds detail, showing the house close to the Gogar Station Road boundary (station then present) with lawns down to the burn on the south and a walled garden to the south-west through which the burn flows. A small paddock lies on the north enclosed by tree-belts with a larger enclosure to the west, also enclosed by belts. This basic layout survives today



Roy's map c1750 showing
Gogar sites

COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

Architectural Features

Mansion House

Later 18th and early 19th century 2-storey over raised basement, 6-bay near symmetrical classical house. Two-storey, 3-bay central block with rectangular plan, advanced 2-storey added soon after with rear 2-storey projections making a U-plan with single storey service bays. Whinstone and sandstone rubble with ashlar sandstone margins.

The conservatory was built against the west return of the house c1900. Glasshouse builders Messrs. Mackenzie & Moncur included Gogar Bank House in a customer list in their 1907 trade catalogue.

North Lodge

Single storey, 3-bay, rectangular-plan lodge with flat-roofed addition on west. North Lodge described as early 19th century in list description, although a lodge is not shown here until the 1890 edition OS map.

Walled Garden

The A listed walled garden is thought to be early 19th century; built of sandstone rubble, with brick inside; its dimensions are 80 x 50 metres and it lies to the south of the house sloping north to south. Two doors to east and west of the north part link the garden to an upper pathway, and part of the wall is curved.



Sharp Greenwood & Fowler
map 1828

North lodge



The east and west walls have arches through which the Gogar Burn flows: the date 1820 is carved on the keystone of the west arch. Inconsistencies in OS maps have led to the suggestion that the north-eastern corner may have been rebuilt at some time (*pers comm* C Dingwall GHSS, 4 Aug 1998). The garden now planted ornamentally, rather than as a kitchen garden.

Other Buildings

Various small buildings including bothy, potting shed, store etc.

Modern Additions

Two detached houses have been built in recent years at the west end of the west field, close to the road.



Detached houses, west field

Estate Boundary

The roadside boundary is defined by a timber pale fence about 1.2m high with a beech or hawthorn hedge behind for most its length.

Drives and Paths

North Drive, a sort approach from the North lodge at the road junction. The 1st edition OS shows an earlier short drive from the east, before the building of the North lodge. Also shown are rides or paths through all the tree belts allowing circuits of the park to the north and field to the west.

Bridges

Timber footbridge crossing the burn in the walled garden, painted white.

Gardens and Policy Planting

Lawn down to Gogar burn



Gardens

Well planted and maintained shrubberies and lawns located to the south and west of the house; includes tennis court and bowling green.

Parkland

The small park without internal planting north of the house has been altered in shape in the 20th century by a new belt of ornamental conifers, broadleaves and shrubs, separating off the area of the bowling green and tennis court.

Tree Belts and Woodlands

The site is enclosed by tree belts along each boundary, with a dividing belt near the centre separating the house, gardens and lawns from the field to the west. Belts comprise beech, elm, horse chestnut, lime, oak and sycamore; generally mature with some natural regeneration.

Water Features

The Gogar burn is a prominent feature in the landscape, visible from the house across the sloping lawns, but at its most unusual where flowing through the walled garden, where the walls bridge over the watercourse.

Views and Vistas

Views are generally contained by the enclosing tree belts. The house and upper parts of the garden would have had views over the Gogar valley to the Pentland Hills to the south.

Area of Influence

As noted above Gogar Bank is related to the other Gogar sites and contributes to the landscape character of the local area of west Edinburgh and is particularly associated with Kirklands House upstream along the Gogar burn to the west.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Small private garden and designed landscape with no public access.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

A Garden History Society in Scotland assessment of the site in 1998 gave management of the tree belts, reinstatement of circuit paths and conservation work to garden walls as particular issues. Management of the woodland by controlled regeneration supplemented by restocking where necessary would be the main issue concerning the public aspect of the site.

ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**Overall**

Small and well-preserved designed landscape typical of urban fringe areas that contributes with other sites to local landscape character and is particularly notable for its A-listed walled garden spanning the Gogar burn.

Work of Art

High

Historical

Little

Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural

Some

Architectural

High to outstanding



Tree belt, north boundary

Scenic

High

Nature Conservation

Some

Archaeological

None known

Recreational

Some (private use)

Sources – Primary

Maps

Blaeu *Atlas of Scotland*, 1654 NLS

Adair *A Map of Midlothian - Counties of Scotland* MSS version c. 1682 NLS

Armstrong, *Map of the Three Lothians*, 1773 NLS

Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler *Map of the County of Edinburgh*, 1828 NLS

Thomson, *Atlas of Scotland*, 1832 NLS

First edition Ordnance Survey (1852) Sheet 5 NLS

Parish map OS (1898-1904) NLS

Ordnance Survey (1915) Sheet II SE NLS paper copies

NLS National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk

Reg Mag Sig Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, Edinburgh

NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland

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

Plans at National Archives of Scotland (NAS), Register House Plans (RHP)

NAS RHP3702/3 1775 Plan of roads between Gogar Bank and Saughton

NAS RHP85546 1819 Plan of Gogar Bank property of John Reid

SCRAN ref 000-000-563-523-C, Gogar Bank farmhouse, Midlothian Council Library Service

Pers Comm Christopher Dingwall (Garden History Society in Scotland) to Major General Strudwick GOC Scotland 4 August 1998

Messrs. Mackenzie & Moncur 1907 trade catalogue quoted in CD letter 4 Aug 1998

Sources – Secondary

The County Directory "*The Directory of Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats, Villages etc. in Scotland*" – annual publications listing properties and residents – various dates 1843, 1851, 1857, 1862, 1868, 1872, 1875, 1894, 1902. RCAHMS library, Edinburgh

Dictionary of Scottish Architects Accessed at www.codexgeo.co.uk/dsa, 30.11.06

DSA – ref given is NMRS Watherston Collection EDD 711/1-3

Gogar Bank House booklet held at GHSS, 2006.

Historic Scotland Listed Building Report Accessed via PASTMAP, on the RCAHMS website www.rcahms.gov.uk 9.1.07

National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) Accessed via CANMORE, on the RCAHMS website www.rcahms.gov.uk 2.1.07

McKean, Charles 1992 *Edinburgh: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS)

McWilliam, Colin et al 1978 *The Buildings of Scotland Lothian* Edinburgh: Harmondsworth, Penguin

The Statistical Account of Scotland c.1790 (OSA) accessed via EDINA, the website of Edinburgh University www.stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk

Wallace Joyce M. 2nd edition 1998 *The Historic Houses of Edinburgh*, John Donald

Additional sources not consulted

NAS RHP 8561 Plan of lands of Over Gogar 1840
