

City of Edinburgh Council

**Edinburgh**  
Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

**137 Gogar Mount**

**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: February 2008

137 - Gogar Mount



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            |  |

## 137 Gogar Mount

Parish Ratho, later Edinburgh

NGR NT 158 721

Owner Royal Bank of Scotland

Designation

Listing Gogar Mount House B  
Gogar Mount stables and dovecot B  
North Lodge, gates, gatepiers, walls and railings B  
Gogar Mount House walled garden with wellhead C (S)  
West Lodge, boundary wall, gatepiers and railings Gogar Mount House C (S)

Green belt

Area of Outstanding Landscape Quality

### 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, in particular those on the south side of the Glasgow Road –Hanley, Gogarburn and Gogar Park to the east.

### LOCATION, SETTING AND EXTENT

Located on the south side of the Glasgow Road (A8), with access on the west side from the Gogarstone Road, Gogar Mount House is the furthest west of a the Gogarburn group of similar 19th century villa landscapes that also includes Hanley (138), Gogarburn (139) and Gogar Park (140). The main approach would originally have been from the Glasgow Road via the North drive. Site area 11.6ha.

### MAIN PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

Early 19th century.

### HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

While Gogar Mount House has been given the date of 1817 (List description and others), it is possible that it is of a later date as various references present different evidence. A plan dated 1839 (NAS RHP 1395) shows empty fields on the south side of the Glasgow Road and gives the names of the feuars. From west to east these were Alexander Osborne, Mr Maitland, Mr Osborne and, to the east of what became Gogar Station Road, Mr Ponton. In addition, Gogar

*Gogar Mount house and garden setting from north approach*





Ordnance Survey 1st edition  
6" map 1852-53 showing  
Gogarburn group of sites

Mount is not included in the reference to the Gogar estate lands sold in 1809 '... about 92 acres of the estate of Gogar were sold to three separate feuars [not named] ... now constitute the three villas of Gogar Park, Gogar Burn and Hanley.' (NSA 214)

The Knox map of 1816 gives the occupant of Gogar Mount as Deas Thomson Esq, who could possibly be the same John Deas Thomson who owned the lands of nearby Norton in 1810 (NAS 83635). By the time of the Thomson map of 1832, the occupant is named as Wardlaw. A further reference states that Gogar Mount House was built '... for David Wardlaw, founder of the Scottish Widows Fund.' Wardlaw proposed the fund in 1810-11, with an expressed desire to 'to extend [the fund] to all ranks'.

David B Wardlaw occupied Gogar Mount until at least 1843; the Misses Dunlop lived there in 1851-57 and a single Miss Dunlop was there until 1868 (County Directory). By the 1870s, the house was home to the Blackwood family (HS); in 1902 the occupants were William Blackwood and Miss & Miss E M Blackwood.

Gogar Mount is now owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland and used for entertaining and conferences, although its separation from main RBS Gogarburn site by Hanley / Gogarburn Golf Course limits its usefulness.

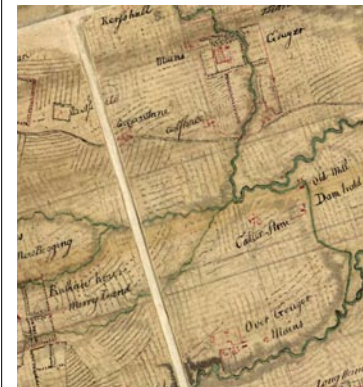
### Maps and Graphic Evidence

The name *Gogar M* appears on the Adair/Cooper engraved map of 1735 positioned on the south-west bank of Gogar burn. Roy's map c1750 shows *Gogarstane* and *Gougar* located north of the road to Glasgow, the latter with a basic designed landscape, but no houses to the south of the road, the whole area being open fields. Knox's map of 1816 shows the Gogar sites laid out with enclosing tree belts and although Gogar Mount is named it is not clear whether a house is present.

The fine *Plan of the Lands of Gogar Mount belonging to David Wardlaw 1827* (NAS RHP1396) shows the house with two parks to the north – the North-west Park (5.96 acres) and the Sheep Park (5.68 acres) – and one to the south, the Cow Park (6.30 acres). Each park is enclosed by tree belts with walks through. A lodge on the north boundary, a heather house on the south-west boundary and a large fish pond on the south boundary are shown. The walled garden is west of the house, with a bleaching green and offices to its west.

The 1st edition OS map 1852-53 shows the house positioned centrally in the site with a short drive from a lodge and offices next to the road on the west and a U-shaped walled garden between. All these built elements are positioned within a broad tree belt with narrower belts enclosing two parks to the north and one to the south. The main drive runs through the central tree belt from a lodge on the main road to the north. To the east, Hanley, Gogarburn and Gogar Park are laid out in the same style with the same components arranged in different ways.

Aerial photograph 1941 E52651 at RCAHMS shows the same components of the landscape with some individual trees in Sheep Park.



Roy's map c1750 showing  
Gogar sites



Adair/Cooper map 1735



## COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

### Architectural Features

#### Mansion House



*Gogar Mount house east front, with pool and cherub*

Single- and two-storey classical villa with a three-storey Italianate tower, built in coursed, squared whinstone with sandstone ashlar margins, quoins, chimneys and other detailing. Gifford describes it as a 'smart villa' and considers the columns to be later additions. Built 1817 or possibly later, with later additions and internal alterations. Stone built conservatory on south-east corner.

The other estate buildings, including stables/offices, north and west lodges and walled garden (north part), are all in the same style and materials.

#### Stables



*Stables and offices*

Small court of 1-2 storey stables and offices located close to the west lodge on the south side of the drive, in squared or rubble whinstone with ashlar detailing; a high central arch give access from the drive with a dovecote under the arch visible from the courtyard.

#### North Lodge

Three-bay single-storey lodge on a rectangular plan with wide-eaved piend slate roof; squared whinstone with sandstone quoins, window surrounds etc. Stands beside the A8 and is unoccupied but well maintained with permanently locked gates. Gateway with shallowly concave wing walls and square moulded gate-piers forming main entrance and twin pedestrian gates, all with cast and wrought iron railings.

#### West Lodge

Three-bay single-storey lodge on a rectangular plan with projecting west porch and piend slate roof; squared whinstone with sandstone quoins, window surrounds etc. Stands at the end of the service drive. Gateway with shallowly convex wing walls and two hexagonal gate-piers forming main entrance and a pedestrian gate against the wall of the lodge; original iron main gates with modern iron inner gate and railings to front of lodge

#### Walled Garden



*Walled garden wall*

The 50 x 70m walled garden lies to the west of the house, separated from it by a small lawn. Rectangular with a curved south end, with walls of squared whinstone in the north and brick in the south. A door in the west wall leads to the stable court, and a door in the east wall leads to the lawns and gardens.

The walled garden is well maintained although only a small area of the north part is intensely cultivated with broad mixed borders and a small areas of vegetables and soft fruit. An ornamental pond, modern glasshouse and slatted structure housing 10-12 short stone classical columns (origin unknown) all lie in the south-west corner of the walled garden.

*West lodge, gateway and estate wall*





*North lodge, gateway and drive*

### Garden Ornaments

The garden areas close to the house features a number of sculptural garden ornaments including the listed wellhead (C) on the south lawn, a circular pool with pedestal bowl and lead statue of a cherub and one or more classical statues.

### Haha

Cow Park is separated from the south lawn and the path leading south-eastwards from it towards the pond by a haha, built in mortar-bound rubble with squared rubble cope.

### Estate walls

Low estate wall circa 1.2m high constructed of large sandstone blocks with triangular cope around north part of estate (north of West lodge), with higher wall with half-round copes to south.

### Drives and Paths

#### North Drive

Main drive curving from lodge on Glasgow Road, now unused but surfaced in bitmac and in good condition. Planted with mature mixed broadleaves (horse chestnut, lime, sycamore) with some younger trees and with rhododendrons, holly and other shrubs.

#### West Drive

Short drive from West lodge, unused as the main approach, surfaced in bitmac and in good condition. Planted with large beeches and a sycamore, other smaller sycamores, oak, holly, yew and rhododendrons.



*North drive*



*South lawn, gardens, east wall of walled garden and well-head*



*North part of walled garden  
and west front of house*



### Gardens and Policy Planting

#### Gardens

Attractive low key gardens on each west, south and east of house with large well-established rhododendrons and other shrubs but of no special note, with a boxed border along the outside east wall of the walled garden. Trees in the core area include Scots pine, long-needled pines, cedar of Lebanon, blue Atlantic cedar, oaks, purple beech, a small Wellingtonia and various cypresses etc.

#### Parkland

North-west Park, Sheep Park (north-east) and Cow Park (south)

Sheep Park and Cow Park are both rough grassland and unused. Grass paths have been cut across each field in the recent past but were not evident at the time of survey. Each is enclosed by timber post-and-rail fences along the house-to-pond walk boundary. Sheep Park is in poor condition with bramble invasion and a beech fallen from the east tree belt.

The North-west Park is sub-divided by a chain-link fenced enclosure in the south with rows of horse chestnuts and cypresses within and a group of horse chestnuts to the north. The fencing and tree rows suggest recent use as a plant nursery. An intrusive row of evenly-spaced Leyland cypress runs parallel with the north boundary tree belt.

#### Tree Belts and Woodlands

Boundary planting is generally of ash, beech, horse chestnut, oak, sycamore and Scots pine. The central belt of trees beside the path from the house to



*South park*



*Tree belt along path from house to pond*

the pond features some of the largest specimens on the site, beech and horse chestnut, with smaller lime and sycamore, plus intrusive younger Lawson cypress planting.

The woodland belts are generally mature or over-mature without any restocking and with some declining or fallen trees.

#### Water Features

A pond is positioned hard against the south boundary enclosed by a chain-link fence. It is fed by a channelised small burn or rill from the north-west that continues at the outflow on the east. Planted with well-established golden yew, Irish yew, columnar cypresses, overgrown rhododendrons etc. Young planting of double row of ash trees along outside of fence, for no obvious reason other than to hide the pond. The pond is an original feature and designed to be seen from the house, lawns and walks. Positioned in place of a south boundary tree-belt so as to allow view of Pentland Hills.

Other ponds/pools mentioned under Walled Garden and Garden Ornaments above.

#### Views and Vistas

View south to south-westwards to Pentland Hills from south lawns and south rooms of house.

The view of the site from the A8, together with the other sites in the Gogarburn group, is of high importance, with the boundary tree belts and estate wall being the dominant features in these view.

#### Visual Intrusions

The main intrusions are chain-link fences dividing off parts of the grounds and planted additions – cypresses beside the north tree-belt, tree rows in North-west Park and ash trees near the pond.

#### Area of Influence

As noted above, Gogar Mount 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 Hanley, with which it shares a common boundary, and with Gogarburn and Gogar Park further east.

#### Archaeology

Archaeological records refer only to architectural features described above.



*Pond on south boundary*



*Rill*





*Cypresses, horse chestnuts  
and cahin-link fence in North-  
west park*

## PUBLIC ACCESS

The site has secure boundaries and there is no public access

## FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

The core area of the house and gardens is well maintained and in good condition, although in need of regular and active use. The parks and tree belts are relatively neglected with no current use and exhibit the results of some incongruous additions, design decisions and land uses in the recent past. Removal of the intrusive cypress screen, cypress and horse chestnut rows, and the ash tree belt are essential actions. Management and restocking of the tree belts is needed and restoration of the grazed parks based on appropriate sustainable uses (grazing, hay cropping etc) is also necessary. Key to future management should be a Conservation Management Plan to be produced when the future function of the whole property becomes established. If this is not imminent, an interim plan of action to prevent further deterioration of the tree-belts and parks may be necessary.

Overall the site is well preserved and appears to have all its essential features remaining and so has the potential to be restored to its original condition.

## ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overall

A small and attractive villa designed landscape that is of modest significance in itself but as part of the Gogarburn group has high significance in the landscape of west Edinburgh, particularly as seen from the A8. The house, lodges and other estate buildings all of the same date, style and materials are perhaps its most noteworthy feature. Within the Gogarburn group it is the best preserved of the four sites and has the potential to be restored to its original condition.

### Work of Art

Some

### Historical

Little

### Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural

Little

### Architectural

High

### Scenic

High

### Nature Conservation

Some

### Archaeological

Little

### Recreational

Some

---

**Sources – Primary****Maps**

Adair/Cooper *A map of Midlothian – Counties of Scotland* printed version -1735  
NLS

Knox, *Map of the Shire of Edinburgh*, 1816 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](http://www.nls.uk)

RMS 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](http://www.scran.ac.uk)

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

RHP1395 1839 Plan of the estate of Gogar, the property of George Ramsay

RHP1396 1827 Plan of the Lands of Gogar Mount belonging to David Wardlaw  
Esq

RHP 83635 1810 Plan of lands of Norton, the property of John Deas Thomson

Aerial photograph 1941 E52651 at RCAHMS covering Kellerstain, Ashley, Ratho  
Park, Gogar Mount, Hanley, Gogarburn and Gogar Park.

**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

Gifford, John et al 1984 *The Buildings of Scotland, Edinburgh*: Harmondsworth,  
Penguin

*Historic Scotland Listed Building Report* Accessed via PASTMAP, on the  
RCAHMS website [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk) 9.1.07

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

*National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)* Accessed via CANMORE, on  
the RCAHMS website [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk) 2.1.07, 15.1.07

*New Statistical Account of Scotland 1835-45 (NSA)* accessed via EDINA, the  
website of Edinburgh University [www.stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk](http://www.stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk)

*National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS)* Accessed via CANMORE, on  
the RCAHMS website [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk) 2.1.07

Smith, Clifford review of Raynes, Harold E 1948 *A History of British Insurance* Sir  
Isaac Pitman & Sons on [www.actuaries.org.uk](http://www.actuaries.org.uk)

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

**Additional sources not consulted**

Gibson, John Charles 1912 *The Wardlaws in Scotland* Edinburgh (NLS)