

City of Edinburgh Council

**Edinburgh**  
Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

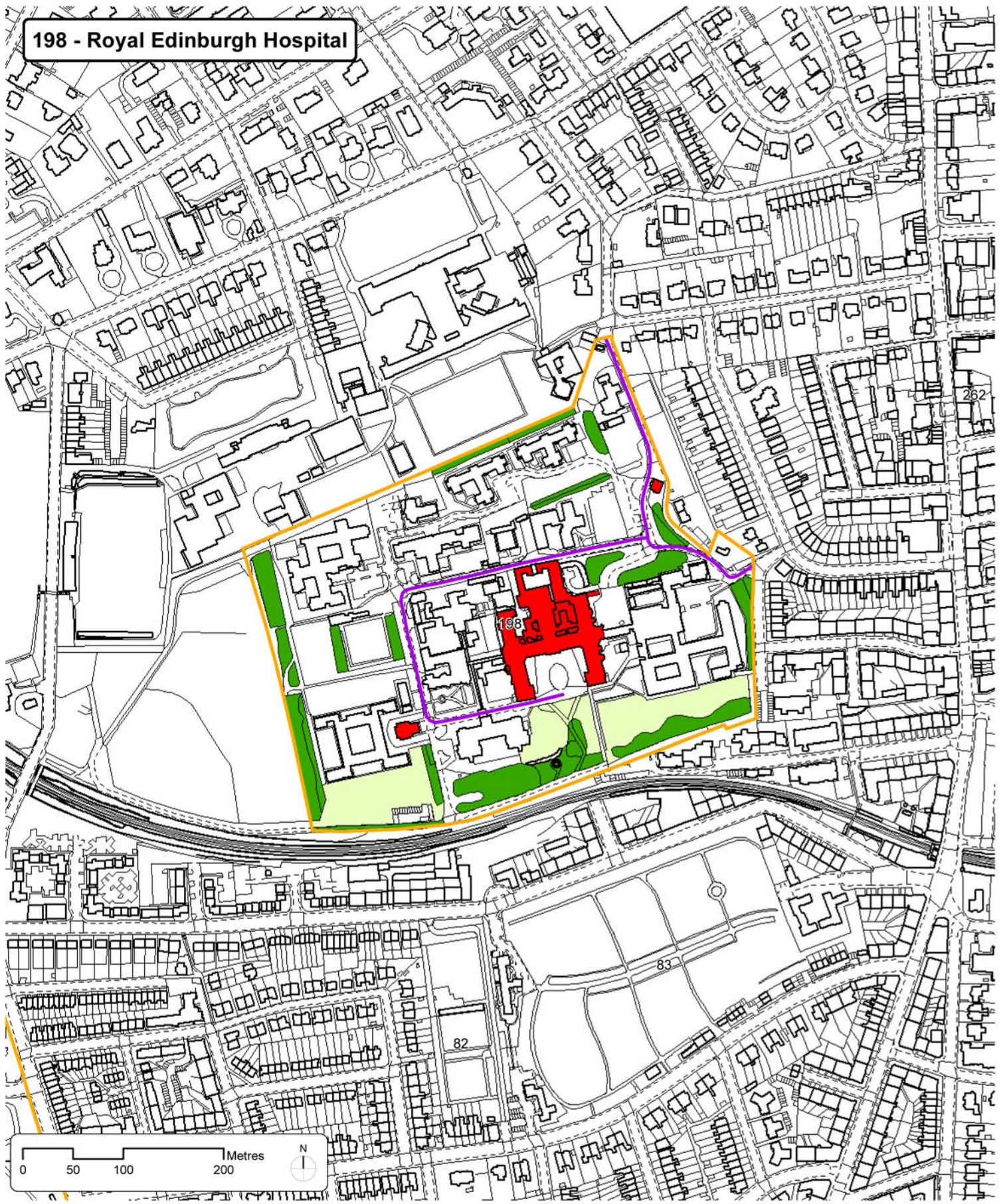
**198 Royal Edinburgh Hospital**














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Survey visit: October 2007

198 - Royal Edinburgh Hospital



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

## 198 Royal Edinburgh Hospital

Parish Edinburgh City Parish, later Edinburgh

NGR NT 2412 7112

Owner Lothian NHS Primary Care Trust

### Designations

Listing MacKinnon House (formerly West House) with boundary wall to Kinnair Unit (formerly Sinclair and Erskine Wards) B  
Tipperlinn Cottage, Morningside Terrace C (S)  
Church Centre, B

### REASONS FOR INCLUSION

A heavily-developed hospital campus site in Morningside with a long history of mental health care where buildings of many styles from the 1840s to the present day mostly either retain a green setting or have associated courtyard spaces or local landscape planting.

The names used for this and other hospitals in south Edinburgh can be confusing. The Tipperlinn site is where the original Royal Edinburgh Asylum was built. From 1878 when the Craighouse site was purchased and developed, this was also known as the Royal Edinburgh Asylum (see 196).

### LOCATION, SETTING AND EXTENT

Located in Morningside to the south of the city to the west of Morningside Road (A702) and beyond the inner suburban streets that adjoin it. The suburban railway forms part of the south boundary; George Watson's College lies to the north-west. Accessed from Tipperlinn Road to the north and Morningside Park on the east. Site area 15.3ha.

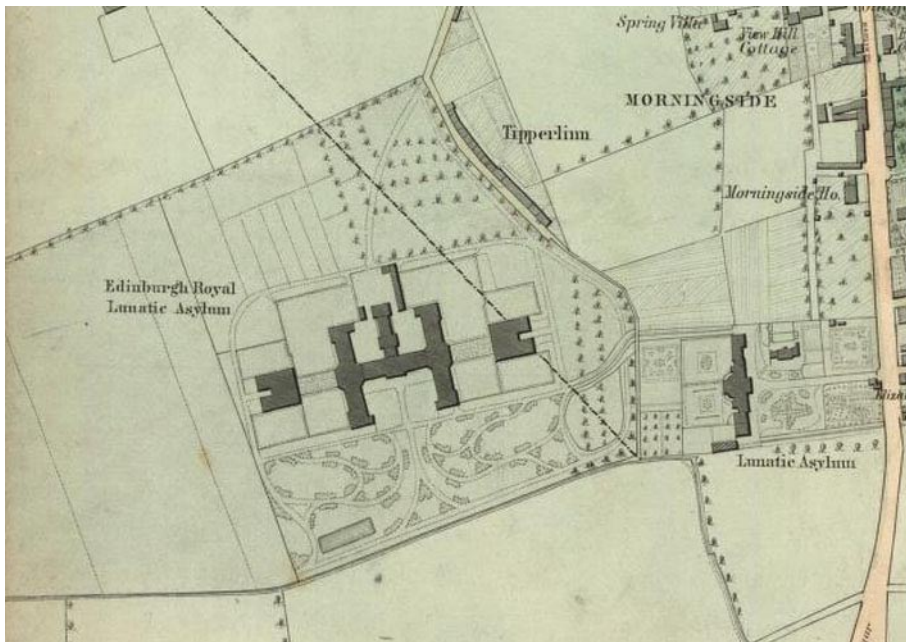
### MAIN PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

East House completed in 1813; demolished in 1896 and site area developed for housing. West House completed in 1842 with additions in 1857. Fairly continuous development of the site in the post-1960 period to the present.

### HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

The first moves in Edinburgh to provide care for the mentally ill, rather than the incarceration of the city Bedlam, came from Dr Andrew Duncan (1744-1828). The foundation of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital was triggered by the death in Bedlam, at the age of 24, of the poet Robert Ferguson. As his medical attendant Dr Duncan was so moved by the poet's plight that he resolved to fund a hospital where the mentally ill could be humanely looked after. In 1792 he set up an appeal for monies and this was supplemented in 1806 by the granting of funds by Parliament, which utilised the funds of the estates forfeited after Culloden in 1745. Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster and the Hon H Erskine supported this act (NSA 732). On a four-acre site in Morningside, architect Robert Reid's *Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum* – the East House – was opened in 1813, taking fee-paying patients. At this point, Reid's design was only half built and he put forward new plans in 1837.

However, in 1840, William Burn's designs – which owed a lot to the design of William Stark's Dundee Asylum of 1812 – were accepted, and West House (now Mackinnon House) was opened in 1842, taking pauper patients. This time it seems donations were gathered more speedily, and anyone who gave £10 could nominate *one pauper lunatic*. Residents were lodged in dormitories that accommodated 16-20 beds.



*West House and East House  
from Lancefield's map 1851*

*Ordnance Survey  
1882*

The presence of the attendants in the same rooms with the inmates keeps up the moral restraint during the night ... A more friendly and confidential relation is established between them. There is less noise, and less risk of suicide in the case of desponding patients, whose gloomy thoughts are apt to overpower them in the stillness and solitariness of a cell; while ventilation, heating and cleanliness, which are of so much importance, are thereby better secured. (NSA 732-733)

A separate building, the Refractory Ward or Sinclair & Erskine Wards (now the Kinnair Unit), was provided for noisy patients. David Bryce completed the West House additions in 1857. Between 1839 and 1846, under the care of Physician Superintendent Dr William Mackinnon, patients were encouraged to utilise any of their existing abilities such as practical skills like gardening, animal care or abilities in the arts, which were also applied in the production of the hospital magazine. There was a curling team that played on the curling pond in the south-west corner of the site.

From 1846-1873, Physician Superintendent David Skae worked on establishing the asylum's reputation as a training centre. In 1873, Dr Thomas Smith Clouston took over, and four years later was instrumental in the concepts adopted for the design and development of the new site at Craighouse (196). Thereafter, it was the Craighouse site that was the centre of the asylum's expansion, catering mainly for fee-paying patients.

In 1896, Robert Reid's East House at Tipperlinn was demolished, and land redeveloped by James Millar c1901 with Millar Place and Morningside Terrace (Harris 441). In 1922 the hospital was renamed *The Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders*.

Later buildings at Tipperlinn included the Nurses' Home in 1912 and the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital in 1929 – which evolved out of the hospital's work with shell-shocked patients during the First World War. An outpatient clinic and teaching unit followed between 1920 and 1930, with a children's clinic in 1931.

In 1948 the hospital was transferred to the NHS and in 1965 the Andrew Duncan Clinic opened, dealing with general psychiatry, designed by John Holt. Holt also designed a nine-storey block for the University of Edinburgh Department of Psychiatry on the east of the site. Continuing to react to the changing needs of society, a Young Person's Unit and an Alcohol Problems Unit both opened in 1968, and the Jardine Clinic (for the elderly with dementia including Alzheimer's Disease) in 1982. The hospital remains one of the main hospitals for the treatment



Ordnance Survey 25" map  
1877-85 showing details of  
garden areas

ey 6" map

of mental illness (Smith 255), and works closely with the Department of Psychiatry of Edinburgh University. In 2005, NHS Lothian launched its plan for a new 350-bed 33,000 sq.m psychiatric hospital on an adjoining 22 acre greenfield site.

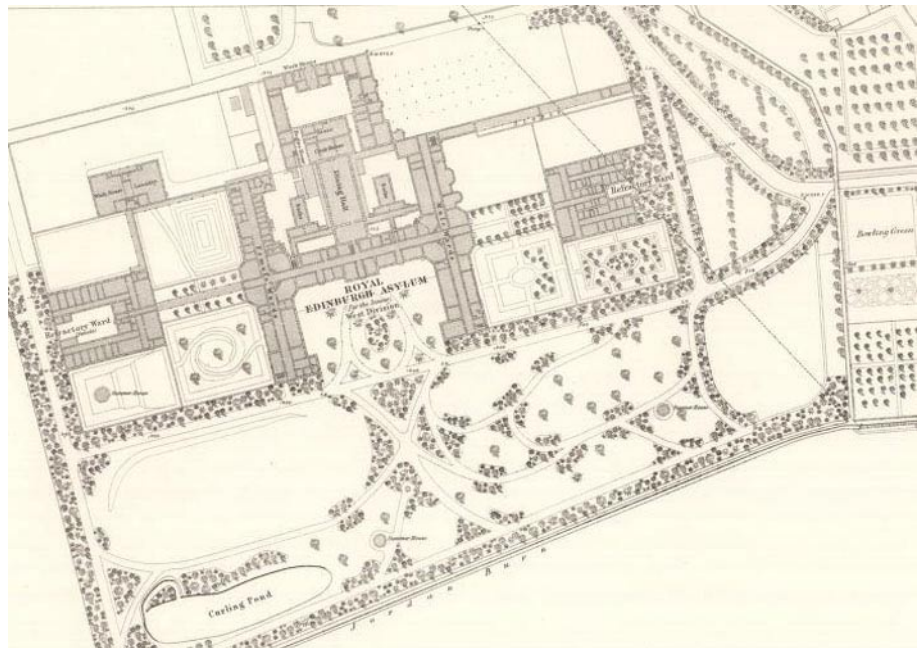
In summary, the Royal Edinburgh offers patients a wide range of services including:

- Adult psychiatry
- Adolescent mental health services
- Dementia
- Early onset dementia
- Forensic unit
- Learning disabilities
- Old people's services – continuing care

#### Maps and Graphic Evidence

*Lunatic Asylum* first shown on Kirkwood's map of 1817, then partially built. The very detailed Ordnance Survey mapping in the second half of the 19th

Ordnance Survey 1:500  
Town Plan 1876-77 showing  
fine detail of buildings and  
gardens of West House





*West House or MacKinnon House from south*

century including the 1:500 Town Plans shows the layout of East House and West House in much detail, with the earliest series from 1849-53 showing only the east part of West House completed and labelled *Royal Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum*. Lancefield's map of 1851 shows similar detail. Together these maps show changing styles of layout and use of the garden spaces within this short period, with ornamental parterres around East House (demolished 1896) and, later, a bowling green on the north-west side and possibly an orchard to the north. From the first, West House is shown with a symmetrical layout of curving paths, shrubbery and trees to the south linked into a south courtyard, with a curling pond in the west corner. To east and west small courtyard gardens lie on the south side of the Refractory Wards. To the north, a utilitarian uses later gave way to three formally planned gardens, presumably of therapeutic value in the treatment of patients. All the area to the north has now been developed, although much of the landscape to the south remains as a parkland setting for later-20thC buildings.

## COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

### Architectural Features

The number of buildings is so large as to make a comprehensive listing impractical. A few of the older buildings are described here, plus a general account of the character of the later buildings.

**West House or MacKinnon House:** H-plan 3 storey building in yellow sandstone, with courtyard to south and an additional wing in place of north court leading to further smaller service court; first designed by William Burn and opened in 1842; David Bryce completed additions in 1857; described as 'plain classical, vaguely Italianate in an oasis of parkland' (McKean 141). All external spaces dominated by parked cars.

**Tipperlinn House or Jardine Clinic:** two-storey villa in honey-coloured sandstone with single storey flat-roofed additions on north, at north of the site beside Tipperlinn Road.

**The Cottage, 33 Tipperlinn Road:** small sandstone cottage with half dormers on north side of road.

**Entrance Lodge:** single storey sandstone lodge with end and central gables and timber porch at roadside.

**Jordanburn Nerve Hospital:** single storey harled building built 1929, in yard near Kennedy Tower on east of site.

**The Kennedy Tower:** University of Edinburgh Department of Psychiatry: 7 storey 1960s tower.

*Jordanburn Nerve Hospital  
c1929*



*Tipperlinn Road and entrance  
lodge, with Kennedy Tower  
behind*



Scottish Ambulance Service Regional Headquarters: single storey courtyard building.

David Henderson Resource Centre: South Central Community Health Team.

*The Orchard Clinic*



The Orchard Clinic: two-storey building is pink and cream harling with timber cladding and mono-pitch roofs. One of the most recent buildings.

Nurses Home: single storey unit with central courtyard in west of the site.

Two, three and four storey blocks in parkland setting on the south of the site, variously in brick or concrete construction.

OT Horticulture Project, including glasshouse range.

Tipperlinn Bowling Club: single storey clubhouse with green to south.



*Tipperlinn Bowling Club*

Church Centre: a corrugated iron chapel built by Morton & Scott Liverpool in 1876, which was moved from North Merchiston to the Tipperlinn site in 1884 (HS, Gifford 620).

#### Monuments

Gable-end bust to Phillippe Pinel 1745-1826 erected on the centenary of his death with medallions to six other medical worthies.

Sculpture: Abraham, by Ronald Rae.

#### Estate walls

A high stone wall defines the site on the south boundary, adjoining the railway, and on the east. Boundaries are indistinct or not seen along the north part of the site.

*Church Centre*





*Scottish Ambulance Service  
Regional HQ and central east-  
west road*

### Roads and Drives

Tipperlinn Road is a winding lane surviving in the urban area lined with mature trees that provides the principal route into the campus from the north, with a second entrance from Morningside Terrace on the east. Within the site roads on each side of the central West House complex give access its different parts.

### Gardens and Policy Planting

The site does not have a consistent overall landscape structure and, particularly through the centre of the development, is so densely built over as to be devoid of significant trees. Mature belts and parkland trees survive at the perimeter, as described below.

### Gardens

Small gardens and planted courtyards are associated with many of the buildings or groups of buildings. The south courtyard of West House includes two mature yews.

### Parkland

The only space of parkland character is the belt of scattered mature trees within the south part of the site that provides the setting of the more modern buildings on this side. The mature trees (ash, lime, oak) date from the first development of the site in the 1840s and the gardens shown in the area on the 19thC OS maps.

### Tree Belts and Woodlands

Narrow belts or rows of trees in other parts of the site include the west boundary, the Tipperlinn Road boundary, a short belt to the north of the Scottish Ambulance Service HQ, the Morningside Terrace boundary, and the south boundary beyond the parkland trees. Species are typically ash, horse chestnut, lime and sycamore.

### Views and Vistas

The densely developed nature of the site precludes many views, although the Pentland Hills are visible above the boundary trees from some open areas such as the bowling green and the north-south road on the west.

### Visual Intrusions

Dense development is a characteristic of the site and the idea of visual intrusion does not really apply. However, across the site, car parking is an issue, with parked car dominating many spaces and on-street parking often in an uncontrolled manner including on footways and grass.



*Parkland setting provided by  
former gardens area on south  
of site*



#### **PUBLIC ACCESS**

The site is open to public use, apart from more private spaces, although there is little obvious use by local people. The large number of people on site, as staff or patients, means that all open spaces are well used in good weather.

#### **FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL**

The degree of development of the site means that there is little room for further development, apart from land to the west, and limited opportunity to improve the landscape structure and environmental quality of the site. Perhaps the most pressing issue is to tackle the number of private cars entering the site and encourage greater use of public transport.

#### **ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

##### **Overall**

A densely developed campus that has evolved on lands associated with a single large Victorian hospital block in an apparently incremental manner, with the character of the setting surviving only in the south part of the site.

##### **Work of Art**

Little

##### **Historical**

Some

##### **Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural**

Some

##### **Architectural**

High

##### **Scenic**

None

##### **Nature Conservation**

None

##### **Archaeological**

None

##### **Recreational**

Some

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Lancefield, Johnston's Plan of Edinburgh & Leith 1851 NLS

First edition Ordnance Survey (1852) Sheet 6 NLS

Ordnance Survey Edinburgh Town Plan 1876-77 NLS

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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](http://www.nls.uk)

NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland

SCRAN Scottish Cultural Resource Access Network [www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk)

History of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital from [www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/histheal/hospital/reh.html](http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/histheal/hospital/reh.html)

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NAS RHP 492/77 1883 Booklet published by Arthur Mitchell 'Position of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum for the Insane' 28 December 1882'