



Case information

Case ID	300009135
File Reference	HGI/P/LB/1
Name of Site	Archerfield

Local Authority	East Lothian
National Grid Reference	NT 505 841
Designation No. (if any)	GDL00017
Designation Type	Garden and Designed Landscape
Case Type	Removal

Start Date	25 March 2014
Decision Date	01 September 2016

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Archerfield no longer meets the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. We have removed the garden and designed landscape from the inventory.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Archerfield was added to the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in 1987. This site has been identified for review as part of the Inventory Refresh Project 2014-2015

The following listed buildings are located within the designed landscape.

Reference	Designation	Category
LB1536	Archerfield with pavilion wings	A
LB1521	Archerfield Home Farm	B

LB1520	7 Archerfield Estate (Gardeners Cottage)	B
LB1537	Archerfield East Lodge	B
LB1347	Eldbotle Wood, Marine Villa	B
LB1348	Eldbotle Wood, Marine Cottage	C
LB1519	Archerfield West Lodge	C

The southern part of the designed landscape is situated within the Dirleton Conservation Area (CA275). The entire estate is also designated in the 2008 East Lothian Plan as a local biodiversity site (www.eastlothian.gov.uk).

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals affecting this review.

3. Assessment

Archerfield was visited on 24/09/2015. The entrance drives, the central core of the designed landscape including the lake and garden grounds around Archerfield House, the walled garden, and the areas around The Renaissance Club were seen at this visit. The golf courses, the new private housing, and housing around the Home Farm were seen from the public realm.

The proposal was subject to consultation with owners, occupiers and the Local Authority. The assessment was updated to reflect comments received.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes was carried out (see **Annex A**) and the site was found to no longer meet the criteria.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016, Annex 5, pp. 58-59.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory*

Archerfield

1. Description

1.1 Type of site

Archerfield is a former estate landscape laid out in the mid-18th century and set around the A listed Archerfield House.

1.2 Main phases of landscape development

1780 – 1850s

1.3 Location and Setting

Archerfield is located immediately west of Dirleton village in East Lothian, and two miles west of the coastal town of North Berwick. Its wider landscape setting is the North Berwick plain, known for its flat or gently undulating arable fields, dune systems and golfing links lands. Archerfield is one of a number of historic designed estate landscapes in this area.

The main A198 road to North Berwick defines the southern edge of the designed landscape. Woodlands extend along the west boundary, and the East Lodge is within Dirleton village. To the north, the former policies extend to the Firth of Forth shoreline.

1.4 Site History

The origins of Archerfield designed landscape can be traced to 1663, when Sir John Nisbet acquired the Barony of Dirleton and the recently ruined Dirleton Castle. He instructed work to begin on a new, classical mansion house called Archerfield House.

Nisbet's new house at Archerfield was built from circa 1663-1670, 1 km to the west of Dirleton Castle, and just over 1 km to the south of an older agricultural settlement called Eldbotle (Hindmarch and Oram 2012). Within 150 years, a planned designed landscape was established on and around these former medieval landscape features, transforming the immediate area and establishing much of the structure of the present landscape.

The early development of the grounds appears modest. William Roy's military survey of 1747-55 shows a long, tree-lined double avenue, stretching east to west from the

principal elevation of Archerfield House, and a large rectangular enclosure immediately to the north.

The creation of a more extensive design dates from circa 1780 under the ownership of William Hamilton Nisbet. Surviving accounts show that the well-known landscape designer, Robert Robinson, was employed at Archerfield (Tait 1980: 257) and the design is attributed to him. A map surveyed in 1799 shows the extension of the pleasure grounds in an informal style over a large area, with open parklands and planted shelterbelts immediately around Archerfield House. There were also ancillary estate buildings, drives and paths, and a large area of woodland further to the north (Forrest 1802). The ruin of Dirleton Castle, located on a rocky outcrop, became an eye-catching 'garden ornament', while the old village of Eldbottle was finally abandoned (Hindmarch and Oram 2012).

The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 shows a mature designed landscape with additional estate buildings and garden features that were typical of the era. Archerfield Home Farm was rebuilt and lodges were erected at the east and west gates. There were summerhouses, walks and a shrubbery to the north of the house.

Gardeners from Archerfield won prizes for their produce and from 1858-68, the gardens were supervised by head gardener, David Thomson (1823-1909), (Loudon 1837: 574; Land Use Consulting 1992). Thomson is known for his contribution to horticultural literature, (eg. Thomson 1866), and for his later association with Drumlanrig Castle, where he maintained the gardens for thirty years. In 1875, the garden grounds were described in detail and praised in the Journal of Horticulture (Wright 1875).

Archerfield has a historic association with the game of links golf, and there was a private course on the open policy grounds to the north of Archerfield House during the second half of the 19th century and early 20th century. The golfer and writer, Bernard Darwin, (1876-1961), praised the links and considered there to be 'no more enchanting short course in the world' (www.golfclubatlas.com).

As with many estate landscapes in Scotland, the mid-20th century was a period of major change. From 1939, the house and grounds were requisitioned by the Ministry of Defence for the war effort, after which the house was no longer inhabited and was used as an agricultural store. The links course was abandoned and by 1950, parts of the older policy woodlands were replaced by large rectangular blocks of conifer plantations (Air photos 1944-50). The 18th century tree-lined avenue was felled and ploughed in the 1950s.

Tourism, leisure and residential developments from 2001 have brought another phase of change to the Archerfield landscape. Their impact on the condition and integrity of the historic design is discussed below (Condition and Integrity). The developments include the full restoration of Archerfield House for use as a hotel, the development of new golf courses and accompanying facilities, and the creation of new residential areas, holiday accommodation and infrastructure in and around the designed landscape. The former walled garden has also been redeveloped.

Archaeological excavation and survey work associated with these developments have shed further light on the development of the landscape over time, revealing further information about human activity from prehistory to the more recent past (see under archaeology below). At the time of writing, a long-term forest plan has also been published which sets out objectives for the management of woodlands at Archerfield from 2016-2035 (Woodland Consulting 2015).

1.5 Landscape Components

Architectural features:

Archerfield House is a late 17th century, three-storey, classical mansion with flanking pavilions and a complex building history. Surviving estate buildings within the designed landscape include a farm at **Archerfield Home Farm**, adapted from older structures in the earlier to mid-19th century and the nearby L-plan **Archerfield Gardener's Cottage** (7 Archerfield Estate) of similar date. This formerly served the adjoining **walled garden**, (built 1778). The mid-19th century, gabled **East Lodge** at Dirleton, and **West Lodge**, to the west of the Home Farm, mark the former entrances of the estate. To the north, **Marine Villa** and **Marine Cottage** were built in the mid to later 19th century.

Drives and approaches:

The three main historic approach routes to Archerfield House were from the east (Dirleton village), from the west (the North Berwick road), and from the south (also from the North Berwick road) (Forest 1802, Dirleton estate plan 1809; Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler 1825). By the 1850s, the southern entrance was closed, and an extra, alternative drive was created from the east lodge; a longer, more circuitous route to the house through the southern woodlands and parks (Ordnance Survey 1854; 1893). This arrangement of drives survives in the present landscape, and forms part of the East Lothian Core Paths network (www.eastlothian.gov.uk).

The present, modern access from the south was installed in the early 21st century as part of the redevelopment of the house and grounds. Other sections of new routes through the policies have also been created in association with the development of the tourism and golfing facilities.

Parkland:

The open grounds to the west and south of Archerfield House largely retain their historic parkland structure, as established in the late 18th century. There are no surviving parkland trees and these grounds are now arable fields.

The former parkland to the east of Archerfield House was developed to become the new Archerfield Links golf course in the early 21st century. The former ha-ha to the east of the house was reinstated at the time of the main house renovations.

Avenues and vistas:

A double beech avenue running east to west from the front of Archerfield House was planted from circa 2000. It follows the axis of a former avenue, planted before 1750 and felled in the 1950s (Roy 1747-55)

Woodland:

Curving shelterbelt woodlands extend around the periphery of the designed landscape and the inner parks around Archerfield House. There is a mix of broadleaves and conifers (at a ratio of two-thirds to one-third), together with understorey species in some areas (yew, holly, hawthorn and hazel). Sycamore is the dominant broadleaf species on the site (Woodland Consulting 2015).

There is now much less woodland at Archerfield than in the 19th and early 20th century. Extensive planting work probably started in the later 18th century as part of the landscape design work by Robert Robinson. Historic maps show both shelterbelt plantations and a large expanse of trees towards the north of the policies (Broad Wood) (eg. Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler 1824; Ordnance Survey 1854).

The structure and composition of the woodlands changed during the mid-20th century, when broadleaves were felled and conifer stands planted in their place (Air photos 1944-50). Further felling occurred in advance of the development of golfing and leisure facilities to the north of Archerfield House in the early 21st century.

The surviving woods are currently subject of a long term forest plan which aims to restore part of the historic structure of the 18th-century designed landscape and improve the diversity of the woods, with benefits for local amenity and wildlife (Woodland Consulting 2015). The restoration of the eastern part of the Landscape has already taken place. The surviving woodlands contribute to the overall scenic and nature conservation value of the designed landscape (see assessment below).

Water Features:

There are two ponds in the grounds around Archerfield House. In the woods to the north of the house, there is a large ornamental pond with a central island. The second pond has a footbridge and is located immediately to the north of the walled garden. They have been restored as part of early 21st-century redevelopment within the designed landscape, and contribute to the biodiversity and nature conservation value of the site (see Nature Conservation below).

Both ponds were created prior to 1854. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map shows them as connected to a wider network of footpaths around the garden grounds (1854). In the present landscape, a new path network bears a resemblance to the 19th-century arrangement (www.archerfieldwalledgarden.com). The edge of the woodland garden pond has been restored.

Walled Garden:

A large, rectangular-plan walled garden is located southwest of Archerfield House, and immediately east of the Home Farm. It accommodates a café, brewery, shops, a play area and a vegetable garden, with car parking outside of the walls to the south and east.

Built in 1778, the garden is depicted on an estate survey map of 1809 as divided into three equal sections (Tait 1980: 139; Land Use Consultants 1992). In 1858, David Thomson was appointed head gardener and improved the gardens. During the 19th century, the garden had a large number of glasshouses and became especially known for its flowers, vines and pineapples (Wright 1875). Thomson also supervised the gardens at Dirleton Castle, which functioned as the flower garden of the estate at this time (Land Use Consultants 1992).

In the second half of the 20th century, surviving glasshouses were demolished and the grounds used for agricultural purposes. In the early 21st century as part of the garden café development the boundary walls of the kitchen garden and boilerhouse were restored.

At the time of writing, there are plans to develop the kitchen garden within the walled garden with further fruit and vegetable cultivation and the installation of glass houses (www.archerfieldwalledgarden.com).

2. Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes *The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016, Annex 5, pp. 58-59.* <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

Criteria for determining whether a garden or designed landscape is of 'national importance' for inclusion on the Inventory under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 [<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents>]

2.1 Value as individual work of art in its own right

Value: Some

Archerfield designed landscape is associated with the 18th century landscape designer, Robert Robinson. A former student of Sir Lancelot, 'Capability' Brown in England, Robinson was known for the design of picturesque-style landscapes, with parklands, clumps, lakes and curving shelterbelts. He had previously carried out

work at Castle Grant (Highland), Glamis (Angus), Paxton House (Scottish Borders), and Balbirnie (Fife).

Archerfield is also associated with the head gardener, David Thomson (1823-1909), who achieved some renown in the 19th century, and who was among the first 60 winners of the Victoria Medal of Honour for services to horticulture.

While these associations are of some value in this category of assessment, the designed landscape at Archerfield, in its present form, is not considered representative of the work of either of these individuals (see Condition and Integrity below).

There is no known evidence to suggest that Robinson's design at Archerfield was considered particularly innovative, and there is also no known evidence that Archerfield became a trendsetter for later landscape design works.

19th-century accounts indicate that some elements of the designed landscape were appreciated by contemporary society, such as the walled garden for the quality and extent of its produce, and the golf course. However, there is not a known collection of documentary evidence which indicates that the designed landscape as a whole was considered to be highly valued as a work of art in its own right.

2.2 Historic value

Value: Some

Estate maps of 1809 and 1844 (reproduced in Land Use Consultants 1992), and estate documents and accounts catalogued on the National Register of Archives for Scotland provide primary evidence for the development of Archerfield designed landscape and are of some value in this category.

Archerfield's association with William and Mary Hamilton Nisbet of Dirleton is also of some historic interest. The family also owned estates at Innerwick and Biel. Their daughter, Mary was raised at Archerfield and married the diplomat Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin in 1799, who was responsible for the removal of the 'Elgin Marbles' from the Parthenon in Athens.

However, Archerfield cannot be considered to have high or outstanding value in this category of assessment. Based on current knowledge, the extent and variety of surviving historical documents does not compare well with other designed landscapes that are associated with particularly early or large archival collections.

Archerfield is not an outstanding representative of any particular period of the historic development of gardens and designed landscapes and its interest is lessened by several stages of alterations to the 18th and 19th-century schemes (see Condition and Integrity).

Archerfield does not have any components that are an outstanding example of a particular period or style, nor any physical evidence of a particularly early form of designed landscape.

While Archerfield attained some renown for the quality and extent of its walled garden produce, and the success of Thomson's cultivation, there is no known evidence to suggest that the designed landscape as a whole was considered to be a trendsetter in terms of subsequent design.

2.3 Horticultural, arboricultural or silvicultural value

Value: Little

Archerfield has some older ornamental trees within Broad Wood and Duncan's Plantation however there is no outstanding or scientific collection of plants, shrubs or trees that is distinguished by its variety, or inclusion of unusual species or rarities. There are no known county or national champion tree specimens at Archerfield (www.treeregister.org).

The woodlands to the north of the designed landscape were largely cleared and replanted in the 1950s and more recently, large areas of woodland have been felled to create a new golf course (see comments on forest plan work under nature conservation value).

At the time of writing, there is no known evidence to suggest that Archerfield holds an important place in the history of horticulture, arboriculture, or silviculture.

2.4 Architectural value

Value: Outstanding

Archerfield designed landscape forms the setting for the A listed Archerfield House and several other listed buildings. Archerfield house was stripped out internally in 1962 to form a grain store and was in a derelict state by the 1990s. It was renovated in the early 21st century to operate as a hotel, a reconstruction phase which also involved work on the Marine Cottage and Marine Villa to the north boundary of the landscape

The designed landscape has further ancillary buildings which have interest as a group and many are listed. These buildings are Archerfield Home Farm (LB1521), Archerfield Gardeners Cottage (LB1520), Marina Villa (LB1347), Marine Cottage (LB1348) and West Lodge (LB1519). There is a walled kitchen garden which was described in the Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardens in 1875, the walls of which have been repaired as a part of recent renovations

2.5 Scenic value

Value: Some

Mature policy woodlands and architectural features, including the lodges, signify the presence of a historic designed landscape and provide some visual contrast to the open arable grounds and golfing links lands within this coastal margin landscape.

Archerfield has shelter belt planting which adds some scenic value around the north and west of the boundary. It is currently one of around 25 inventory designed landscapes that help to define the overall landscape character in the East Lothian region.

The loss of some large-scale features, including areas of former policy woodland and the former parkland trees, together with the introduction of new developments in and around the designed landscape is likely to have lessened the potential scenic value of Archerfield although it still merits some value in this category.

Designed landscapes that are of high or outstanding value in this category will make a major contribution to the quality of the surrounding landscape by virtue of their sheer size, location or nature, or are particularly prominent because of rarity or contrast with the surrounding landscapes. They may have extensive policy woodlands or distinctive landscape features (such as the avenue at Haddo House in Aberdeenshire, for example), or be particularly distinctive in long-distance, panoramic views (such as Brodick Castle on the east coast of the Island of Arran).

2.6 Nature Conservation value

Value: High

There are no nationally designated habitats within the Inventory boundary. However, to the north, the coastal strip is designated as the Firth of Forth Site of Special Scientific Interest for its botanical, ornithological and geological interest.

Archerfield is designated as a local wildlife site by East Lothian Council and is considered important for its biodiversity value, areas of priority habitat, and long established woodland (East Lothian Council 2014). Within the woodlands, the areas of mature and veteran trees and areas of scrub (sea buckthorn, hawthorn, privet and elder) provide important habitat for wildlife. The installation of bat boxes in 2010 and 2014 is beneficial for the bat population (Woodland Consulting 2015).

The current forest plan aims to improve the biodiversity and habitat value of the woodlands over the long term, while the restored ponds also create valuable habitat for birds and amphibians (www.archerfieldwalledgarden.com).

2.7 Archaeological value

Value: High

There are no scheduled monuments within the Inventory boundary. The scheduled monument, Eldbotle deserted medieval village is located immediately to the east of the Inventory boundary.

Various archaeological investigations associated with developments in and around Archerfield from the 1990s onwards have furthered understanding of past human

activity in the landscape and contribute to high value in this category (www.johngraycentre.org).

They include the excavation at Eldbottle, which has provided data on the chronology and nature of the former settlement, and its relationship with the creation of the Archerfield designed landscape in the 18th century (Hindmarch and Oram 2012). A walkover survey of Archerfield estate in 2004, located designed landscape features varying in their state of preservation, including walls, ha-has, areas of tree management, ponds, quarries, trackways, earthworks, a domestic dump, an ice house, tree bowls and a cairn (Turner (ed.) 2005: 50).

3. Condition and Integrity (SHEP 2011, p82)

The condition of the site today and its overall integrity are important elements of the assessment process.

After the Second World War, important features of the designed landscape fell out of use, or were removed (see Site History above). The legacy of this phase of change is still apparent today. Former parklands are now arable fields, and the total stock of historic mature woodlands is greatly reduced.

Recent development of the former estate grounds at Archerfield has improved the condition of the designed landscape in some areas. In association with the creation of tourism and leisure facilities in and around the grounds, Archerfield House has been brought back into use and a newly planted double beech avenue follows the alignment of an 18th-century avenue. Ponds and pathways have been restored and there are plans to increase kitchen garden cultivation in the redeveloped walled garden. The long-term forest plan aims to protect and maintain veteran and outstanding trees, to gradually reduce remaining coniferous stands, retain historical boundaries and protect historical views and vistas (Woodland Consulting 2015).

While improving the condition of some elements, the development of tourism and leisure facilities has also affected large areas of the designed landscape, introducing modern buildings and associated infrastructure, including a new access from the south, and establishing modern golf courses. These have altered the character of the estate landscape and have reduced the legibility and integrity of the 18th-and 19th-century design.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

Archerfield is an estate landscape in East Lothian created during the 18th and 19th centuries following the acquisition of the Dirleton Barony by the Nisbet family, and the building of Archerfield House in the late 17th century.

The designed landscape has outstanding architectural value as the setting for a category A listed building and for the collection of 19th-century estate buildings, including lodges and the Home Farm. Archerfield also has high archaeological value following a number of surveys and excavations, which have produced new information about the landscape. Archerfield plays an important role in the biodiversity of this part of East Lothian and consequently achieves a high value assessment in the nature conservation category of this report.

In the other categories of assessment, Archerfield has some value as a work of art in its own right for its association with the designer Robert Robinson and for its repute in later 19th-century horticultural circles for its successful walled garden. It also has some historic value for the survival of some primary documents and for its association with the Hamilton Nisbet family.

Archerfield is unlikely to have performed a trendsetting role for landscape design. Robinson's informal design at Archerfield was relatively modest and was typical of his style and contemporary landscape trends of the era. It is not an outstanding example of its period or style, and contains no individually outstanding elements. While there are some mature woodland and ornamental trees at Archerfield, there are no plant, tree or shrub collections of any horticultural significance. While policy woodlands and architectural features contribute some scenic value to this part of East Lothian, the landscape is not sufficiently large or distinctive to make a major contribution to the scenic quality of the area.

In terms of condition and integrity, post-war land-use at Archerfield resulted in the loss of significant landscape features. Although recent redevelopment has restored or recreated many of these features, the legacy of this phase of change is still apparent. On balance, the scale and nature of the development projects have changed the character of the designed landscape to such an extent that its value as an example of Robinson's work is reduced.

The integrity of the landscape is a significant factor in the assessment. The designed landscape was predominantly open parkland and wooded areas which are now set to arable fields and have been largely replanted. Although subject to enhancement through a Forest Plan, these changes and other developments have reduced the historic interest of this landscape.

While Archerfield retains value as a designed landscape of local or regional interest, taking all of the above into account the site no longer meets the criteria of national importance for inclusion on the Inventory of gardens and designed landscapes and is therefore proposed for removal from the Inventory.

5. Designation Boundary

N/A

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore ID 56746: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/56746/archerfield-house>

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* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the national interest of a site. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated Inventory record should the site be added to the Inventory. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

** A site may be found to meet the Inventory criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the Inventory. See 'Designation Process' at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/gardens-and-designed-landscapes/>