

# THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND

## DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY SURVEY OF DESIGNED LANDSCAPES & GARDENS RECORDING FORM

<b>A. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION</b> <i>(Expand boxes as necessary)</i>
<b>SITE NAME:</b>  Conheath
<b>ALTERNATIVE NAMES OR SPELLINGS:</b>  Conhett (Johann Blaeu Map 1654) Conhed (Herman Moll Map 1745) Conhuith (James Barbour, Architect 1874)
<b>ADDRESS AND POSTCODE:</b>  Conheath Nurseries, Glencaple Road, Dumfries DG1 4UB. House and farm in private ownership.
<b>GRID REFERENCE:</b>  NX 9971 6965
<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>  Dumfries & Galloway (Historic County Dumfries-shire)
<b>PARISH:</b>  Caerlaverock
<b>INCLUDED IN 'THE INVENTORY OF GARDENS &amp; DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN SCOTLAND':</b>  No
<b>TYPE OF SITE:</b> <i>(eg. Landscaped estate, private garden, public park/gardens, corporate/institutional landscape, cemetery, allotments, or other – please specify)</i>  Formerly a landscaped estate. Now divided ownership and use; commercial garden nursery, private house & garden, and farm.

**SITE OWNERSHIP & CONTACT:** (Where site is in divided ownership please list all owners and indicate areas owned on map if possible)

Conheath Nurseries address as above.  
Balance of site in private ownership.

**SIZE IN HECTARES OR ACRES:**

Conheath Nurseries 0.8 hectares (2 acres)  
Other properties comprise 1.21 hectares (3 acres)

**PUBLIC ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS/OPENING TIMES** (If any):

Conheath Nurseries 8am – 5pm Mon – Fri & 9am – 12pm Sat

**NATIONAL & LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATIONS:** (eg. Conservation Area, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order(s), Nature Conservation Area, etc.

Located within the Nith Estuary National Scenic Area

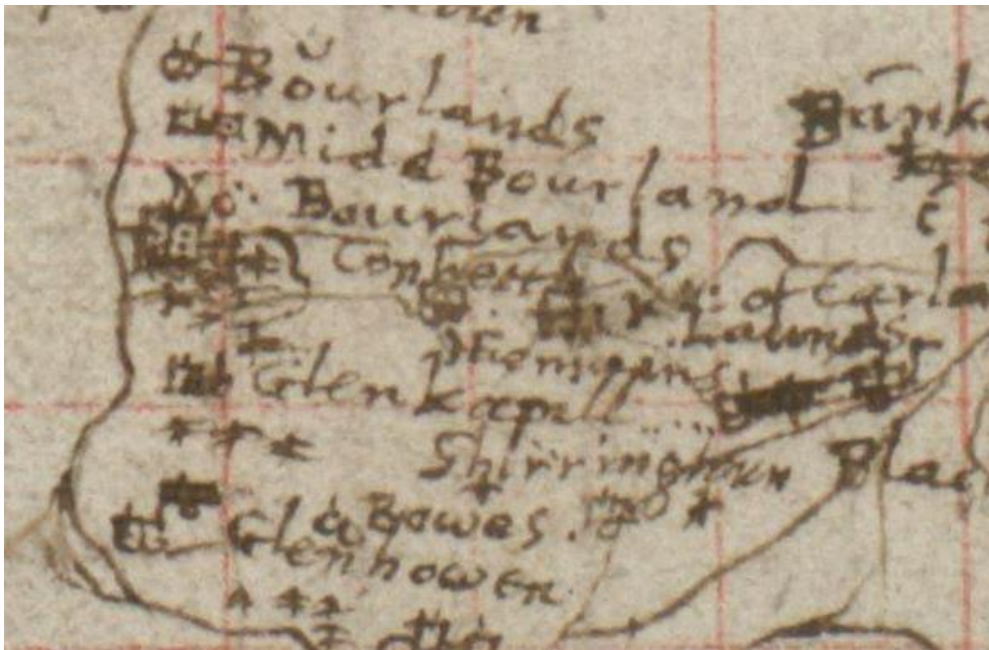
**LISTED STRUCTURES:**

Conheath Farmhouse Category B. Listed 26 June 1986 Ref 3082  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0:::BUILDING,HL:3802,Conheath>  
Conheath Farm Steading, Former Dovecote and Blocks Flanking Eastern Courtyard Entrance Category B. Listed 3 August 1981 Ref 3814  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0:::BUILDING,HL:3814,Conheath>  
Conheath House Category B. Listed 3 August 1971 Ref 3803  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0:::BUILDING,HL:3803,Conheath>  
Conheath North Lodge and Gate Piers Category B. Listed 3 August 1971 Ref 3805  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0:::BUILDING,HL:3805,Conheath>  
Conheath Walled Garden, Garden House and Summer House Category B. Listed 26 June 1986 Ref 3806  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0:::BUILDING,HL:3806,Conheath>  
Conheath Private Chapel Category B. Listed 26 June 1986 Ref 3804  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0:::BUILDING,HL:3804,Conheath>

## B. HISTORICAL SURVEY INFORMATION: MAPPED, DOCUMENTARY & PUBLISHED SOURCES

**MAPPED SOURCES:** (please list maps below in date order and attach copies where possible. Give the description or title, date, maker's name if known, and for Ordnance Survey maps give the date of survey, edition number and sheet number)

Unless otherwise stated all extracts from map images are reproduced by kind permission of the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland



Circa 1583-96 Timothy Pont 35: (Nithsdale; part of Teviotdale)

<http://maps.nls.uk/view/print.cfm?id=298#zoom=6&lat=2318&lon=3754&layers=BT>

Blaeu, Joan 1654 Nithia Vicecomitatus, The Shirifdome of Nidis-dail

<http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/blaeu/view/print.cfm?id=112#zoom=6&lat=2951&lon=1544&layers=BT>

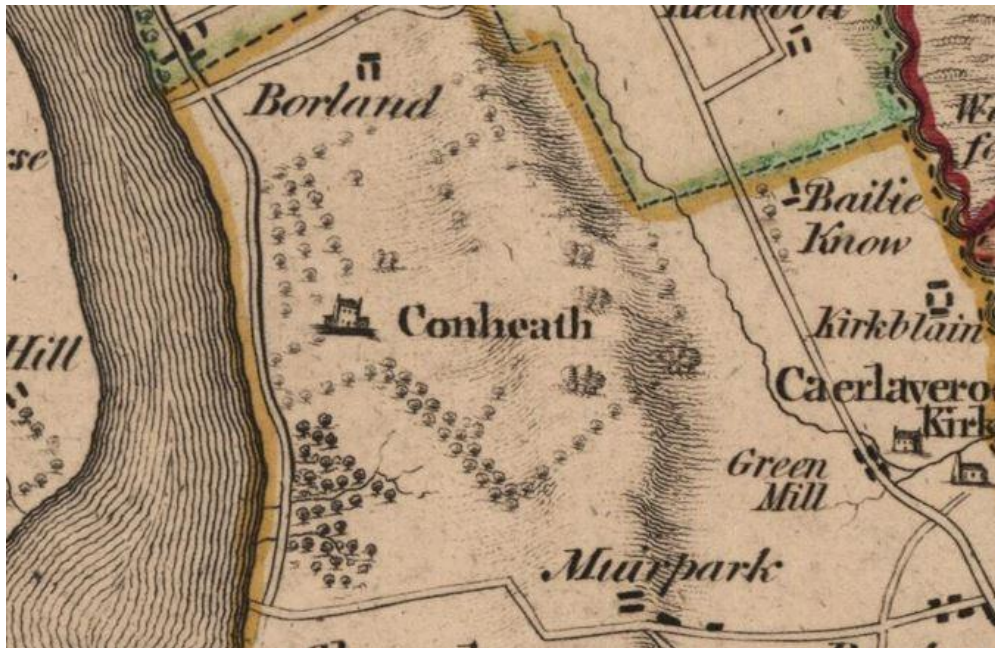
Moll, Herman 1745 The Shire of Dumfries or Nithsdale

<http://maps.nls.uk/counties/view/print.cfm?id=236#zoom=6&lat=2373&lon=3835&layers=BT>



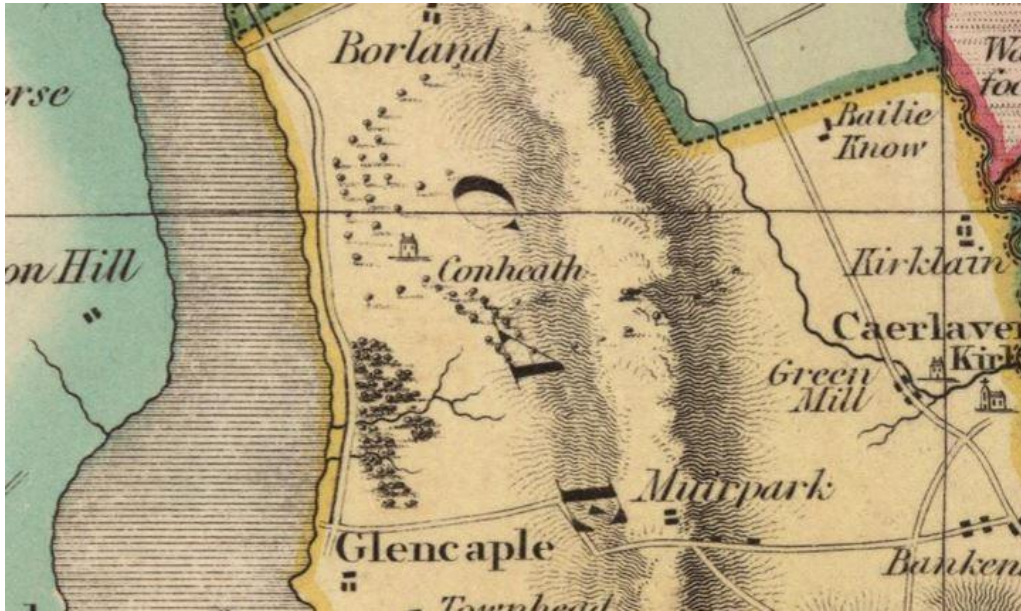
Circa 1755 Roy Military Survey of Scotland (Lowlands) Conheath not Named  
 © British Library Board. All Rights Reserved

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/roy/print.cfm#zoom=15&lat=55.00483&lon=-3.59736&layers=0B000000TTT>



Map of Dumfries-shire – William Crawford 1804

<http://maps.nls.uk/joins/view/print.cfm?rsid=74400221&sid=74400223&mid=597&pdesc=South%20West%20section#rsid=74400221&mid=597&pdesc=South%20West%20section&zoom=6&lat=6207&lon=9966&layers=BT>



Dumfries-shire – John Thomson 1820

<http://maps.nls.uk/atlas/thomson/view/?rsid=74400172&sid=74400174&mid=555#rsid=74400172&mid=555&zoom=6&lat=3722&lon=9229&layers=BT>



Ordnance Survey First Edition Six inch to One mile Dumfries-shire  
Sheet LV Surveyed 1856, Published 1861

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/view/print.cfm?sid=74426686#zoom=7&lat=1129&lon=12937&layers=BT>

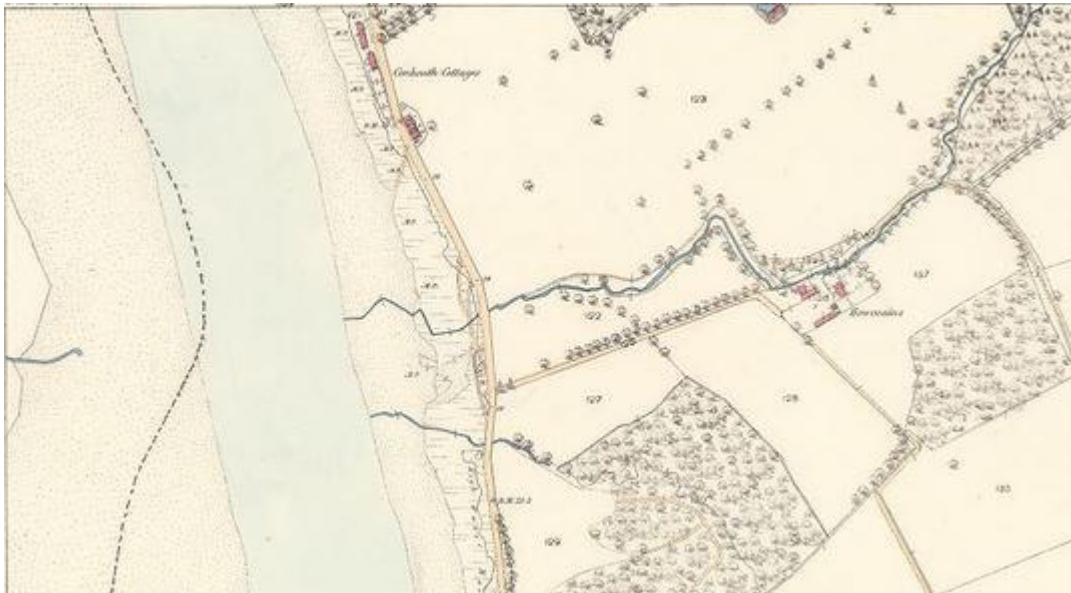
Sheet LX Surveyed 1856, Published 1861

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/view/print.cfm?sid=74426691#zoom=6&lat=10175&lon=12898&layers=BT>



Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inches to One mile Dumfries-shire  
Sheet LV.16 Surveyed 1856, Published 1861

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch/view/print.cfm?sid=74942360#zoom=4&lat=2606&lon=6163&layers=BT>



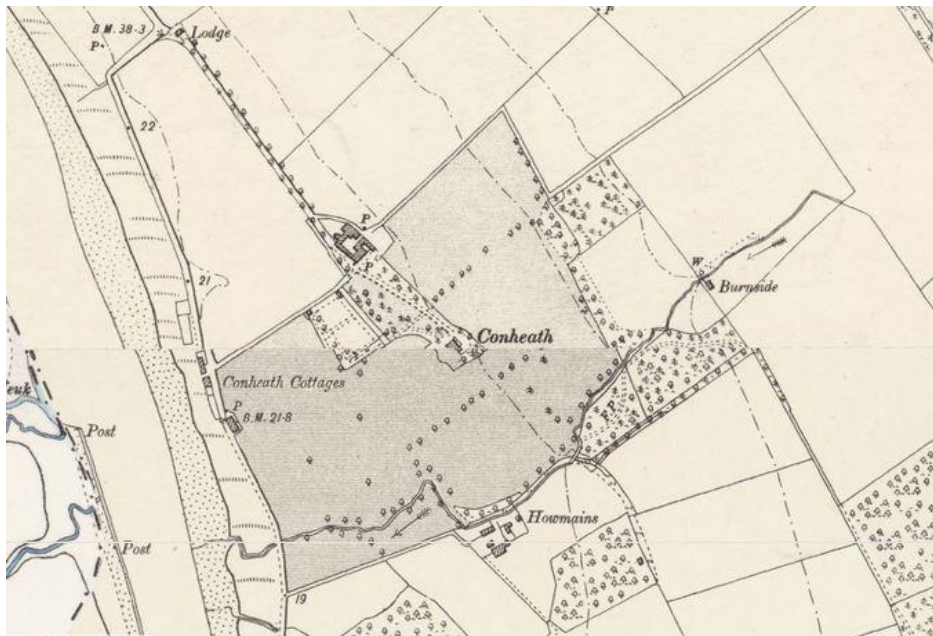
Ordnance Survey First Edition 25 inches to One mile Dumfries-shire  
Sheet LX.4 Surveyed 1856, Published 1861

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch/view/print.cfm?sid=74942366#zoom=4&lat=9735&lon=5563&layers=BT>



Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions 25 inches to One mile Kirkcudbrightshire  
Sheet 038.02 Revised circa 1894, Published 1895

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-2nd-and-later/view/?jp2=82890024#zoom=4&lat=8574&lon=8072&layers=BT>



Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions Six inch to One mile Dumfries-shire  
Sheet LV.SE Revised 1899, Published 1900

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-2nd-and-later/view/print.cfm?sid=75503282#zoom=5&lat=1343&lon=5824&layers=BT>

Sheet LV.SE Revised 1899, Published 1900

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-2nd-and-later/view/print.cfm?sid=75503378#zoom=5&lat=5386&lon=5954&layers=BT>

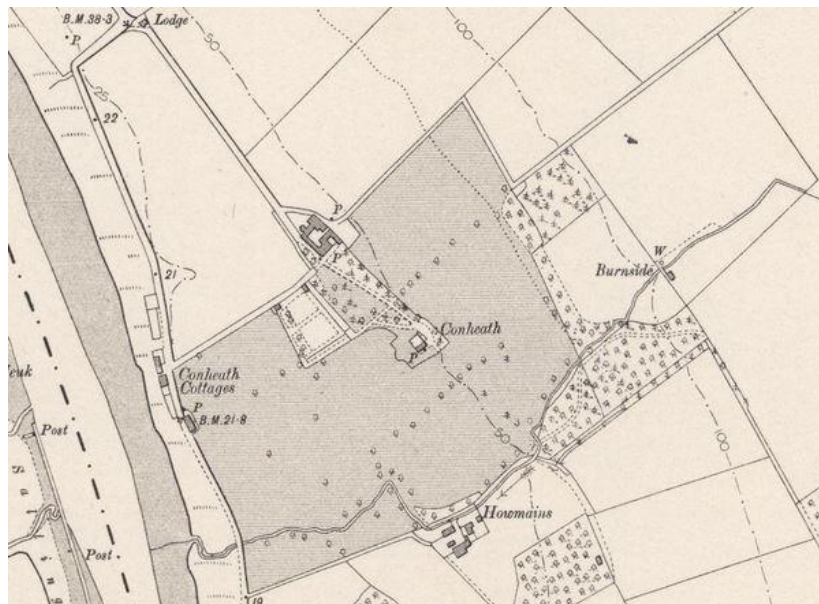


Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions Six inch to One mile Dumfries-shire  
Sheet 055.16 Revised 1899, Published 1900

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-2nd-and-later/view/print.cfm?jp2=83546641#zoom=4&lat=2790&lon=6376&layers=BT>

Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions 25 Inches to One Mile Dumfries-shire  
Sheet 060.04 & 03 Revised circa 1898 Published 1900

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch-2nd-and-later/view/?jp2=82876980#zoom=5&lat=9991&lon=4780&layers=BT>

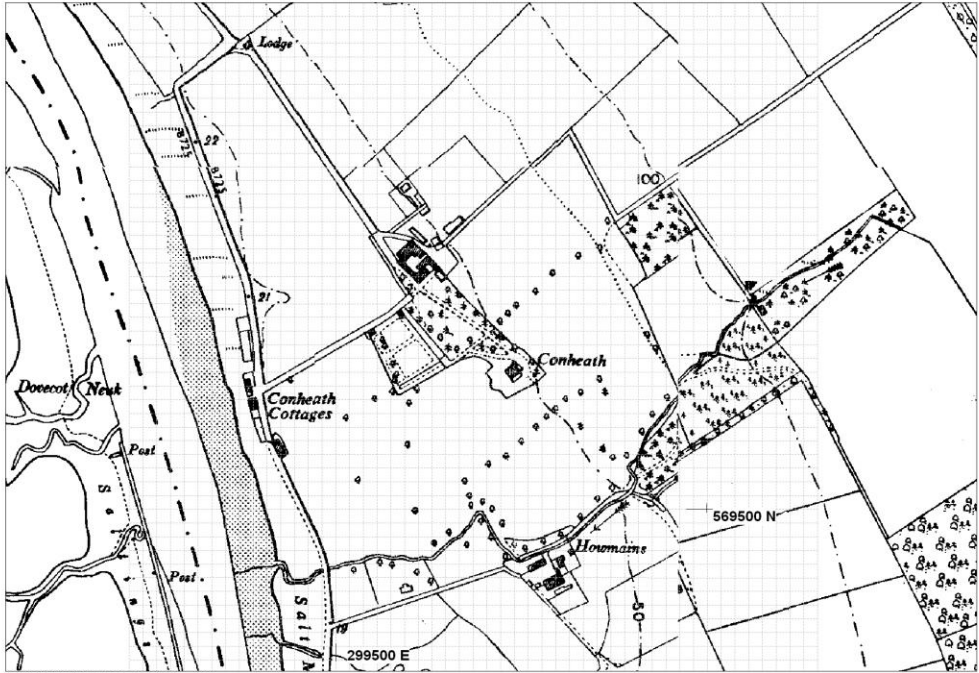


Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions Six inch to One mile Kirkcudbrightshire  
Sheet XXXVIII.NW Revised 1908, Published 1910

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-2nd-and-later/view/print.cfm?sid=75634260#zoom=5&lat=5369&lon=6624&layers=BT>

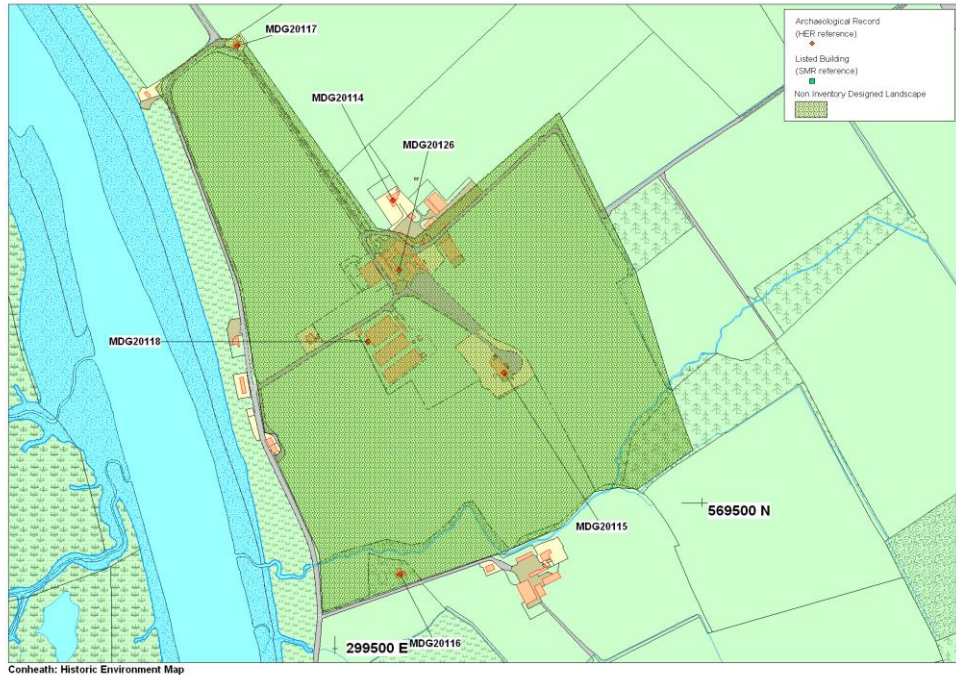
Ordnance Survey Second Edition & Later Editions Six inch to One mile Kirkcudbrightshire Sheet XXXVIII.NW Revised 1946, Published 1951

<http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-2nd-and-later/view/print.cfm?sid=75634257#zoom=5&lat=5489&lon=6250&layers=BT>



Conheath: Historic Environment Map - 1950

Historic Environment Map 1950  
Reproduced by Kind Permission of Dumfries & Galloway Council



Historic Environment Map 2009  
 Reproduced by Kind Permission of Dumfries & Galloway Council

**PRIMARY & DOCUMENTARY SOURCES:** (*plans, manuscript documents and other estate records*)  
 Please list material consulted in date order and attach copies where possible. Give description of material, and location and reference number of archival holding.

Decreet of Sale of Lands of Conheath in Favour of Mr George Bell, Merchant in Dumfries  
 29/7/1748 (Ref: EG10 1/85, Ewart Library Db18 (929.2))

Valuation Rolls 1872-73, 1902-03, 1912-13, 1922-23, 1932-33, 1942-43, 1946-7, 1947-48,  
 1952-3 & 1972-73 (Ref: Ewart Library, Dumfries)

Census Data for Conheath: 815 004 Caerlaverock, Dumfries-shire 6 June 1841

Census Data for Conheath: 815 005 Caerlaverock, Dumfries-shire 30/31 March 1851

Census Data for Conheath: 815 001 Caerlaverock, Dumfries-shire 3/4 April 1881

**HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS & PICTORIAL SOURCES:** (*drawings, paintings, photographs, aerial photographs etc.* Include type, subject, artist, source or reference location, and date if known)

Conheath House including one large tree possibly Oak (1900) (Ref: Ewart Library, Dumfries, Copyright)

**Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland:**

1915 Floor and drainage plans, sections and elevations. Details of staircase, fireplace, wash house, doors, windows and cornicing. Plans of farm house garden (Ref: LOR C/12/1, Lorimer & Matthew Collection)

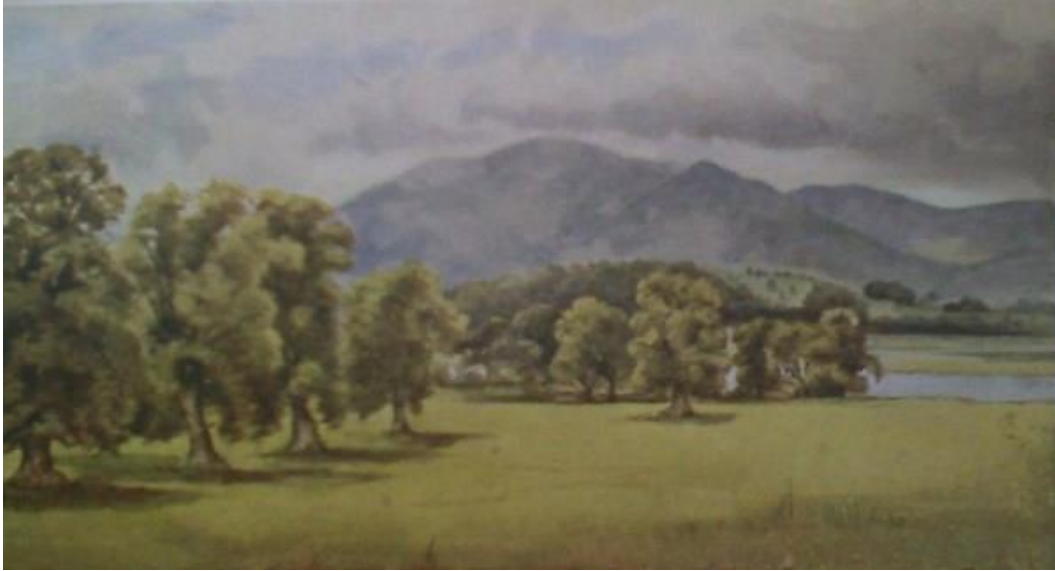
1924 Conheath. Plans of gardener's cottage. Perspective views and elevation of bridge. Plan, elevations and details of gates (Ref: LOR C/13/1, Lorimer & Matthew Collection)

1975 North Lodge, View from West (Ref: DF 5639)

1975 Garden House, Walled Garden, View of Wall (Ref: 5638)



Painting of Sundial in Walled Garden Date Unkown  
(From Scenery in Shakespeare's Plays and Other Studies: D W Rannie see below)



Painting of Parkland circa 1850

(From Scenery in Shakespeare's Plays and Other Studies: D W Rannie see below)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLISHED SOURCES:** (*Statistical Accounts, Gazetteers, Directories, Travel Accounts etc.*) Please list publications consulted in alphabetical order. Include details of author, title, journal or periodical, and date, volume/edition and page numbers where relevant.

Rannie, David Watson 1931 *Scenery in Shakespeare's Plays and Other Studies*. Blackwell,

Horsey, Miles 1983. *Conheath Chapel*. Transactions of Dumfries & Galloway Natural History & Antiquarian Society, Series III, Vol. LVIII, p.97

Colvin, Howard 1995 *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*. 4<sup>th</sup> Ed Yale p. 698

Groome, Francis 1882-1885 *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*

Gifford, John 1996 *Buildings of Scotland: Dumfries & Galloway* p.189

Doyle, John A (Ed) 1898 *Memoirs & Correspondence of Susan Ferrier 1782/1854* Spottiswoode

County Directory of Scotland 1862

County Directory of Scotland 1972

**PRINCIPAL PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT:**

Conheath House and Garden late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

**B6 PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS/DESIGNERS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE:** *(please reference source of information)*

Walter Newall (1780-1863) – Plans for House early to mid 19<sup>th</sup> century

[http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=200326](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200326)

James Barbour (1834-1912) 1874 - House & stables

[http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=200331](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200331)

James A. Morris (1857-1942) 1909 - Extension to House, Chapel

[http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=200321](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200321)

Sir Robert Lorimer (1864-1929) 1914 New Farm House; completed Chapel 1928

[http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=200052](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200052)

**ORAL RECORDS/REMINISCENSES** *Please include a list of any people interviewed during the course of research/survey work. Include name and role of interviewee (eg. family member, former employee, local resident), date of conversation and major dates, features or events recalled. Attach a transcript of the conversation if possible.*

Owner of Conheath House and walled garden – Mr W Dobie

Owner of Conheath farm, farmhouse and doocot – Mr & Mrs E Murray

A relative through marriage of the owner of Conheath House – Mrs M Dobie

**C. SITE SURVEY** *Use map provided to mark positions and boundaries. Take photographs where possible.*

**ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS** *Note the materials used, the dates and styles of various phases of development, and category of listing if appropriate*

**PRINCIPAL HOUSE OR BUILDING:**



Conheath House: South East Aspect From Walled Garden



Conheath House Front Entrance (North East Facing)

<p>2-storey 3-bay house with basement and lower north wing. Stair to garden. Squared red rubble with polished margins and dressings. On the east elevation of the original house is a central Roman Doric-columned semi-circular porch above a flight of concentric steps. Panelled door with fanlight and sidelights. Piended slate roof.</p>
<p><b>OFFICES</b> (<i>stables, outbuildings, etc</i>):</p> <p>Pair of detached 2-storey 3-bay farm steading blocks flanking eastern entrance to courtyard, the larger (to south), with 3-stage octagonal dovecot adjoining north east angle, now converted for domestic use. All rubble-built with ashlar dressings - north block white-washed.</p>
<p><b>HOME FARM OR MAINS:</b></p> <p>2-storey, 3-bay farmhouse, with lower rear wing. Red ashlar; steep-pitched, piended slate roof with swept eaves.</p>
<p><b>BOUNDARIES</b> (<i>External &amp; internal; estate walls, ha-has, park fences etc.</i>):</p> <p>Ill-defined hedges, nothing original evident.</p>
<p><b>GATES/GATE LODGES:</b></p> <p>Single storey gate lodge with later additions at east. Harled, with red ashlar. Slate roof.</p> <p>Corniced and ball-finaled circular gatepiers; cast-iron railings on low coping.</p>
<p><b>GARDEN BUILDINGS</b> (<i>Summer houses, view houses, temples, grottoes etc</i>):</p> <p>Ruined summer house in walled garden (See Walled Garden Section)</p>
<p><b>CHAPELS/MAUSOLEUMS/BURIAL GROUNDS:</b></p> <p>T-plan private chapel with crypt begun by James A Morris of Ayr, architect, circa 1909 but completed circa 1928 to design of Sir Robert Lorimer. Red ashlar, slate roof. No longer in ecclesiastical use.</p>
<p><b>CONSERVATORIES/FERNERIES:</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>GARDEN STATUARY</b> (<i>Fountains, statues, sundials, monuments etc.</i>) <i>Note any inscriptions:</i></p> <p>Sundial as in photo taken from Rannie painting, now in pieces beside Conheath House and with dial missing.</p>

**BURIAL GROUNDS/CEMETERIES** (Note principal memorials and headstones with inscriptions where possible):

None

**BRIDGES:**

None

**TERRACES** (Including steps & stairways):

None

**WALLED GARDENS** (Including potting sheds, bothies, glasshouse ranges etc.):

Walled garden including two-storey gardener's cottage (inhabited) in north west corner and circular circa 1800 summerhouse in lower west wall.



Gardener's Cottage & Summer House From Outside Walled Garden

Garden walls probably 17<sup>th</sup> century and raised in height in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to four to five metres on north and east. Walls rubble-built with red ashlar cope and dressings, curved north east corner. Garden extended to south in late 18<sup>th</sup> century in brick. South wall now demolished. Main entrance on east wall, gate at north. Some blocked openings including doorway and bee boles.



Arched Exit Doorway on North East Wall



Blocked-up Bee Bole on North East Wall



Curved North East Corner of Garden Wall



Exterior of Low South East Wall

<p><b>AVENUES, CARRIAGE DRIVES, ORNAMENTAL WALKS, SERVICE DRIVES ETC:</b></p> <p>From gate lodge leading through avenue of mature Horse Chestnut and Lime trees to Conheath Farmhouse. Avenue did once extend to Conheath House, but trees beyond farmhouse were cut down late 20<sup>th</sup> century by present owner of Conheath House to allow building work. Drive beyond farmhouse thereafter deteriorates to curved track leading to Conheath House.</p>
<p><b>ROCKERIES:</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>WATER FEATURES</b> (natural &amp; man-made including rivers, cascades, lochs, pools etc.):</p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER FEATURES NOT INCLUDED ABOVE</b> (Include any historic or modern feature and indicate use where possible):</p> <p>Three bee boles verified by the Bee Bole Society. The IBRA Bee Boles Register <a href="http://ibra.beeboles.org.uk/search_detail.php?beeboleIBRARegNo=1353">http://ibra.beeboles.org.uk/search_detail.php?beeboleIBRARegNo=1353</a></p>
<p><b>PLANTED ELEMENTS: <i>The garden or park should divide up naturally and historically into different areas, e.g. ornamental gardens, parkland, walled garden, policy planting. Each area should be delineated on a plan and current use noted.</i></b></p>
<p><b>1. ORNAMENTAL GROUNDS</b></p>
<p><b>GRASSED AREAS</b> (Lawns, meadows, terraces):</p> <p>Former Parkland now grazing pasture</p>
<p><b>FLOWER BEDS</b> (Indicate theme or type – parterres, perennial herbaceous border/annual bedding where possible. Note whether significant plant collection):</p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>SHRUBBERY INCLUDING HEDGES &amp; TOPIARY</b> (Include details of height, species etc. if possible):</p> <p>Rhododendrons to rear of Conheath House</p>
<p><b>ORNAMENTAL TREE PLANTING</b> (Single specimens, groups – include details of age and species if possible):</p> <p>Mature Oak and Beech trees, probably as old as House (see photo below)</p>
<p><b>AVENUE PLANTING</b> (May also cross parkland and policy planting. Note predominant species and whether single or double planted if possible):</p> <p>Avenue of Lime trees and Horse-chestnuts from Gate Lodge (single row) originally leading to Conheath House but now part of farm estate.</p>



Old Trees Outside North West Wall

**ANY OTHER ORNAMENTAL PLANTING FEATURE NOT COVERED ABOVE:**

None

**C2 KITCHEN GARDENS AND ORCHARDS**

**KITCHEN GARDENS** (*walled, hedged or other boundary. Note any other historical features and current use*)

Traditional 18/19<sup>th</sup> century walled garden now used as a commercial nursery.  
 Record from 1740 of fruit garden rented out for £24 annually (Record of sale of lands of Conheath and others in favour of Mr George Bell, Merchant in Dumfries 29/07/1748, (Ewart Library, Dumfries)  
 Correspondence 1812-23 between Mrs Connell (of Conheath House) and her sister, mentioning apples and flowers. (Memoirs and Correspondence of Susan Ferrier, ed. John A Doyle 1898, printed Spottiswoode)  
 Oral Records confirm that used as organic kitchen garden in 1950s (particularly strawberries, sweet-corn and fruit). Had been very productive vegetable garden during World War II.

<p><b>ORCHARDS</b> (<i>walled, hedged or other boundary. Note any other historical features and current use</i>)</p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>C3. PARKLAND</b></p>
<p><b>GRASSED AREAS</b> (<i>Note current use, amenity grassland, agricultural use – grazing, cultivation etc.</i>):</p> <p>Agricultural use for grazing</p>
<p><b>TREE PLANTING</b> (<i>Individual specimens, clumps, belts, roundels etc. Note species if possible, and whether fenced</i>):</p> <p>None of note</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER PARKLAND FEATURE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE:</b></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>C4. POLICY WOODLAND PLANTING</b></p>
<p><b>COMPOSITION</b> (<i>Note composition of woodland; deciduous/coniferous/mixed, and principal species if possible. Note current use eg. commercial timber cropping/amenity woodland</i>):</p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>ANY OTHER POLICY WOODLAND FEATURE NOT INCLUDED ABOVE:</b></p> <p>Mixed woodlands concealing Chapel</p>
<p><b>C5. VIEWS, VISTAS, BORROWED LANDSCAPE &amp; PERIPHERAL AREAS</b></p>
<p><b>KEY VIEWS</b> (<i>please note views inwards to the house, outwards from the house, and internally within the landscape</i>):</p>



View of Criffel From Conheath House

View of Criffel (highest peak in Dumfries area) and River Nith.  
 Unchanged since 19<sup>th</sup> century painting in D W Rannie's book

**BORROWED LANDSCAPE** (please note any features, natural or man-made, lying outside the designed landscape which act as eye-catchers or contribute to the outward views):

As above

**PERIPHERAL AREAS** (please note any features lying outside the main landscape but which are clearly designed e.g. regularly spaced roadside/field boundary trees, estate walls etc.):

None

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON CURRENT CONDITION OR CARE OF THE LANDSCAPE**

Little changed since the 19<sup>th</sup> century view

**SURVEY DRAWINGS AND/OR PHOTOGRAPHS**

*Please include a list and copies where possible of any drawings, photographs made/taken during the ground survey.*

A selection of photographs taken during the survey included in the text above. A full set of images will be included in the copy of this report to be lodged with the Ewart Library, Dumfries.

**D. SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE SITE** *This section should be set out in chronological form and should include information on the way the site has developed and changed since it was first recorded, using dates and maps where possible. The names of owners, architects or designers involved, and relevant historical events should be recorded, and the sources noted.*

#### TIMELINE

1576: Lands of Conheath given to Alexander Stewart of Garleis<sup>18</sup>

1590 – 1748: Conheath lands belonged to Sir John Maxwell and his descendants until John Murray died bankrupt prior to 1748<sup>1</sup>

1748: Conheath lands and mansion house sold to George Bell, sometime Provost of Dumfries<sup>1</sup>. *See References to the Garden below.*

1787: William Kirkpatrick (1737 – 1787) owns Conheath<sup>2</sup>. His great-granddaughter was the Empress Eugenie, wife of Emperor Napoleon III of France.

1791: David Donald purchased Conheath<sup>19</sup>

1796: James Connell of Conheath (1776 – 1844) married Janet Ferrier (d. 1848), sister of author Susan Ferrier<sup>3</sup>

1803: The Connells came from India to live at Conheath<sup>3</sup>

Early to mid 19th Century: House designed for James Connell by Walter Newall<sup>11</sup>

Walled garden is thought to be contemporary, but incorporating earlier stonework<sup>4</sup>

Gardener's cottage and summer house included<sup>5</sup>. Farm steading built with dovecot (now converted to domestic use).

1814: James Connell recorded to be an Elder in the Presbytery of Dumfries<sup>6</sup>

1841: Gardener was John Johnston (aged 35 years) living at Conheath with wife and four children<sup>7</sup>

1844: James Connell died at Conheath<sup>8</sup>

1851: Gardener was James Smith (aged 42 yrs, born at Kirkmahoe), living at Conheath Cottages with wife and five children<sup>9</sup>

1862/63: Conheath House (value £50) belonged to James Connell (the younger)<sup>10</sup>.

Home Farm (value £455) tenant was Robert Leckie. Woodlands value £8.

1874: Farmhouse built – architect James Barbour<sup>11</sup>

1876: Estate with mansion bought by David Watson Rannie<sup>12</sup>

1877: Stables built – architect James Barbour

1881: Gardener was Thomas Irvine (aged 27 years, born Ancrum, Roxburgh), living in Gardener's Cottage with wife and three children<sup>13</sup>. William Shillito was Domestic Servant/Coachman, living with wife and three children in Porter's Lodge<sup>13</sup>

1882/3: Gardener was Alexander Hendry<sup>10</sup>

1892/3: Gardener was Alexander Hendry<sup>10</sup>

1900/1: Conheath Estate bought by Robert Young Pickering (1841-1932), a North Lanarkshire Railway Rolling Stock Manufacturer<sup>14</sup>

1902: Gardener was Kenneth Mackenzie<sup>10</sup>

1909: Robert Young Pickering extended the house with a low North wing and a stair to the garden<sup>5</sup>. Architect was James Morris<sup>11</sup>. Family chapel designed in baroque style by him, but only the chancel built.

1909/10: Robert Young Pickering had serious financial problems<sup>14</sup>

1912/13: Gardener was James McLeod<sup>10</sup>

1914: New farmhouse built. Architect Sir Robert Lorimer<sup>11</sup>.

1919: Designs for new house<sup>16</sup>. Architect Sir Robert Lorimer. Designs for bridge on

estate. Presumably neither was built.

1922/23: Gardener was Reuben Welsdell<sup>10</sup>

1928: Chapel completed in more modest arts and crafts design. Architect Sir Robert Lorimer.

1932: Robert Young Pickering died at Conheath<sup>15</sup>. Buried in chapel.

1932/33: Manor house, offices and grounds value £90 gross<sup>10</sup>. Gardener was Robert Gracie.

1930s: Estate, except for chapel, sold to Mr Murray. Entrance changed so that the tree-lined avenue from the North Lodge led to the farm<sup>17</sup>. A separate entrance road from the West now leads to the walled garden and house.

Late 1930s: Mansion house and grounds sold to Mr William Dobie, Solicitor, Dumfries<sup>17</sup>. Farm retained by Mr Murray.

Mr Dobie was ahead of his time in composting, growing organic vegetables and banning chemical fertilisers.

1942/43: Gardener was John Johnstone<sup>10</sup>

1944/45: No gardener mentioned<sup>10</sup>

1946/48: Gardener was Robert S. Hunter<sup>10</sup>

1952/53: Market garden on site<sup>10</sup>

Present day: Commercial Nursery in the walled garden

Chapel maintained by a Pickering family trust and no longer in ecclesiastical use<sup>5</sup>

#### SPECIFIC REFERENCES TO THE GARDEN

1740s: Charles Davidson and John Anderson say they '*possess jointly the lands of Conheath and the Grass (of/or) in the fruit garden there*' and they '*pay yearly rent for sum of £20 sterling and six hens and twelve chickens*'. That they '*pay for the grass of the said garden twenty shillings sterling yearly*'. They '*have been used to take care of the fruit which grew in the garden for the Master's behove, which yielded sometimes more. Sometimes less and sometimes nothing and not more than twenty shilling sterling in a year.*' The rental of the grass and fruit was determined by the Lords to be twenty four pounds.

1812, 5<sup>th</sup> December: Letter<sup>3</sup> to Mrs Janet Connell at Conheath from her sister in Edinburgh, thanking her for a box of apples, a large quantity '*most excellent of their several kinds*'. Reference 3 above, p118.

1820s: A letter notes anxiety over how to dispose of the apples at Conheath.

p.155 (undated) Advised Mrs Connell that the stocks lift better in the spring (i.e. growing flowers).

1822 p.163 apples mentioned in letter

1823 p.168 Letter from her sister advising Mrs Connell to sow large beds and long rows of dwarf rocket larkspur as '*nothing makes a garden look more brilliant*'.

#### References: Also See Section B

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6. Principal Acts of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland 1814

7. 1841 Census Data Caerlaverock, Dumfries-shire 6 June 1841
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9. 1851 Census Data Caerlaverock, Dumfries-shire 30/31 March 1851
10. Valuation Rolls
11. Dictionary of Scottish Architects <http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk>
12. Groome, Francis 1882-1885 *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*
13. 1881 Census Data Caerlaverock, Dumfries-shire 3/4 April 1881
14. Scottish Archive Network person code GL416 [www.scan.org.uk](http://www.scan.org.uk)
15. Wikipedia [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Young\\_Pickering](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Young_Pickering) (not verified)
16. Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland  
<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>
17. Oral Record (Mrs M. Dobie, Mr W. Dobie, Mrs J. Murray)
18. NAS catalogue GD138/1/139
19. NAS catalogue CS107/228
20. The IBRA Bee Boles Register <http://ibra.beeboles.org.uk>

## SUMMARY HISTORY

Documented sources record a significant property at Conheath in 1748 and possibly as early as the survey for Timothy Pont's map of Nithsdale in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. Surprisingly no property at Conheath is depicted on Roy's Military Survey of circa 1755 but the pattern of land enclosure appears to be that later recorded on the First Edition Ordnance Survey and that which survives to the present day. The present Conheath House is early 19<sup>th</sup> century, designed by architect Walter Newall for James Connell who had purchased the estate in 1791. The garden is probably contemporary with the surviving house but the blocked doorway and Bee-Boles in the garden walls may date from 17<sup>th</sup> century indicating they are associated with an earlier house and have been altered. Records from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century show the lands of Conheath were being cultivated as a fruit garden and the walled garden was extended to the south in later in that century. The farm steading and dovecot date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Connell family remained at Conheath until 1876 with correspondence between Mrs Janet Connell and her sister recording the cultivation of apples and flowering plants in the garden. In 1874 James Connell junior added a Farmhouse to the estate, designed by James Barbour, shortly before the estate was purchased by David Watson Rannie. D W Rannie added stables to the estate in 1877, again designed by James Barbour. The estate was purchased by Robert Young Pickering in 1900 and changes undertaken to the house to designs by James Morris. Morris's designs for a chapel were only partially executed at this time and subsequently completed by Robert Lorimer in 1928. Following his death in 1932 Pickering was buried in the chapel, and the estate with the exception of the chapel, sold to Mr Murray. The principal approach to Conheath House was adjusted to become the access to Conheath Farm, with a new access from the west being created for Conheath House and the walled garden. Mr Murray split the estate, retaining the farm but selling on the house and walled garden to William Dobie a pioneering organic gardener. By the early 1950's a market garden had been established and today there is a commercial nursery in the walled garden. Despite changing use and split ownership of the estate, the overall designed landscape has remained remarkably intact.

**NAME:**

Eileen Toolis, Heather Barrington, Anne Fairn, Pam Wortley, **Dumfries & Galloway Designed Landscapes and Gardens Survey Group** under the auspices of the **Garden History Society in Scotland**.

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