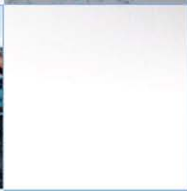


# The Walled Garden Borthwickshiels, Hawick

## Historic Buildings Report

AOC 21382  
16th July 2009



ARCHAEOLOGY

HERITAGE

CONSERVATION

## Walled Garden, Borthwickshiels, Hawick Historic Buildings Report

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**On Behalf of:** P Campbell Fraser  
Borthwickshiels  
Hawick  
Scottish Borders

**National Grid Reference (NGR):** NT 437 155

**AOC Project No:** 21382

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**Illustration by:** Diana Sproat

**Date of Report:** 15th July 2009

This document has been prepared in accordance with AOC standard operating procedures.

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**Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

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**Date:** 15th July 2009

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**Date:** 16th July 2009

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### **Summary**

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*A Level 1 building record was required of the walled garden at Borthwickshiels, near Hawick, in the Scottish Borders as a condition of planning permission prior to the erection of a new house within the garden. The garden was probably built in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

*No further historic building recording is recommended.*

## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Mr P Campbell Fraser commissioned AOC Archaeology Group to undertake a Level 1 survey of the walled garden at Borthwickshiels, near Hawick, in the Scottish Borders. This work was required as a condition on the planning permission prior to the erection of a new house within the garden, adjacent to the present gardener's cottage.

### 1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 Borthwickshiels is located to the west of Hawick and is centred on National Grid Reference NT 437 155.

## 2 Objectives

- 2.1 The objectives of this survey were to create a permanent record of walled garden prior to the development.

## 3 Methodology

### 3.1 Archive research

- 3.2.1 A simple map regression exercise was undertaken on the site using publicly accessible maps from the National Map Library of Scotland. This allowed the garden to be placed into its historical and functional context. The full collection of historical Ordnance Survey maps was consulted along with all other maps available that pre-date the Ordnance Survey maps.

### 3.3 Architectural appraisal

- 3.3.1 An architectural appraisal of the walled garden was undertaken with comment on condition, construction, general form and function and any evidence for phasing or historic and architectural details. This written record was supplemented by black and white print and digital photography, a record of which can be found in Appendix 1 at the end of this report. All photographs were taken using a 35mm SLR camera and a tripod was used where necessary. A 1 m or 2 m ranging pole was used in all shots for scale. A selection of digital photographs has been used to illustrate the report in the form of plates.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Historical background

- 4.1.1 The present Borthwickshiels House was largely constructed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has undergone a large amount of restoration and remodelling in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the original house may have been much earlier with references to a house as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century (*Campbell Fraser pers. Comm.*). It was probably remodelled for Alexander Scott circa 1731 and in 1837 the house was heavily remodelled by John Smith, including the additions of pavilions to the east and west (Cruft et al 2008, 127). Further work

was then undertaken in 1913 by J P Alison and again in 1959 following the discovery of dry rot (*ibid*). The walled garden probably dates to the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century; perhaps at the same time as the 1837 remodelling by John Smith was being undertaken. In 1913, the adjacent gardener's cottage was remodelled by Alison (*ibid*).

- 4.1.2 Cartographically, the house appears on the early maps. It appears on General Roy's Military Map of Scotland dating to 1747-55 (probably its first depiction) and also on Stobie's 1770 map (**Figures 2 & 3**). It is then also depicted on Thomson's 1832 map and on Tennant's 1840 map (**Figures 4 & 5**). On the latter, it is annotated as being owned by 'George Pott esq'. Crawford & Brookes' 1843 map shows the Borthwickshiels estate in detail for the first time, and the walled garden is also depicted (**Figure 6**). It is shown as it stands today with three sides adjoining a curved hedge to the south side. The 1851 map by Mitchell does not show the walled garden but it serves to illustrate that Borthwickshiels was a large house of significance at this time and it would have required a large garden to complete it (**Figure 7**).
- 4.1.3 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1858 shows the walled garden in even more detail, marking out the quadrangles of the gardens within the walled area (**Figure 8**). A small pond has also been added to the west of the walled garden with a small stream leading out of it to the south-east.

## 4.2 Architectural Appraisal

- 4.2.1 The walled garden is relatively well-preserved. The north part of the wall is constructed of stone rubble held together with a lime mortar and with a curved concrete coping (a modern addition to protect the wallheads) (**Plates 1 – 3**). The east wall, however, is drystone construction, reducing in height to the south end of the wall adjacent to the hedge (**Plates 4 & 5**). There are two entrances in this wall. The southernmost of these has a 1950s upturned baluster which was created to appear like decorative finials to the gate piers (**Plates 6 & 7**). The west wall is a roughly coursed lime-mortared wall with a small slate pitch and zinc flashings coping, effectively creating a boundary wall to the adjacent gardener's cottage (**Plates 8 & 9**). A small square-headed entrance leads through to the bottom of the gardener's cottage. The doorway has a replacement concrete lintel and a wrought iron gate which were inserted during the 1950s according to the present owner (**Plate 10**).

## 5 Discussion

- 5.1 The walled garden was probably constructed in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and may have coincided with the 1837 renovations undertaken by John Smith. However, the different methods of construction used may suggest it was built in stages or - more likely - the drystone wall was a possible field boundary which was utilised for the purposes of the walled garden when the remainder of it was built.

## 6 Recommendations

- 6.1 No further historic building recording is recommended.

## 7 References

### 7.1 Bibliographical references

Cruft, K, Dunbar, J & Fawcett R 2008 *The Buildings of Scotland: Borders*, Yale University Press: New Haven & London

### 7.2 Cartographic references

1747-55	General Roy	<i>Military Map of Scotland</i>
1770	Matthew Stobie	<i>A Map of Roxburghshire or Teviotdale</i>
1832	John Thomson	<i>Roxburghshire</i>
1840	N Tennant	<i>Map of the County of Roxburgh</i>
1843	Crawford & Brooke	<i>Map embracing extensive portions of the Counties of Roxburgh, Berwick, Selkirk &amp; Midlothian and Part of Northumberland.</i>
1851	T Mitchell	<i>Map of the County of Selkirk and District of Melrose</i>
1858	Ordnance Survey	



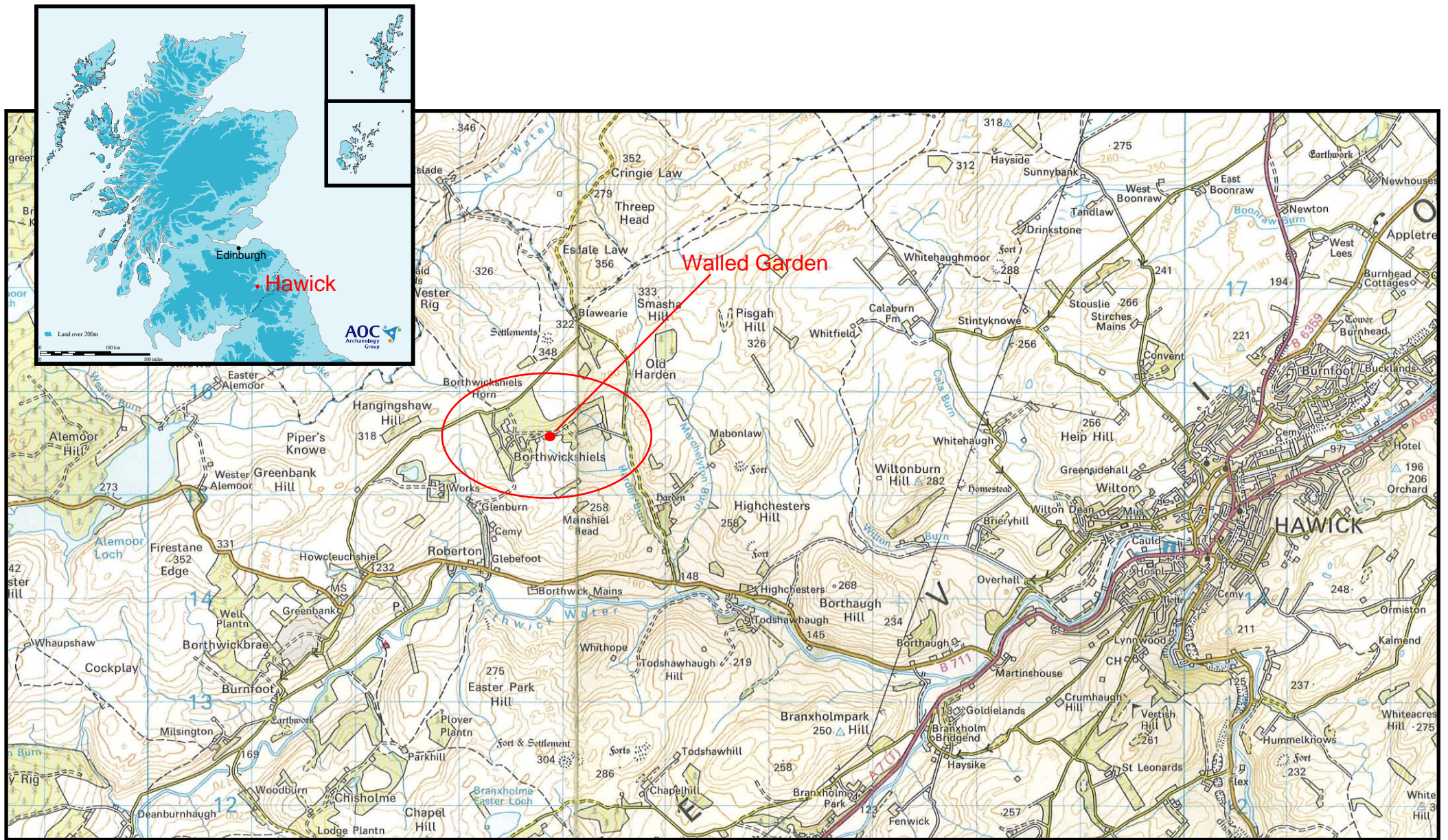


Figure 1: Site location

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Figure 2: Extract from Roy's map, 1747-55



(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 3: Extract from Stobie's map, 1770



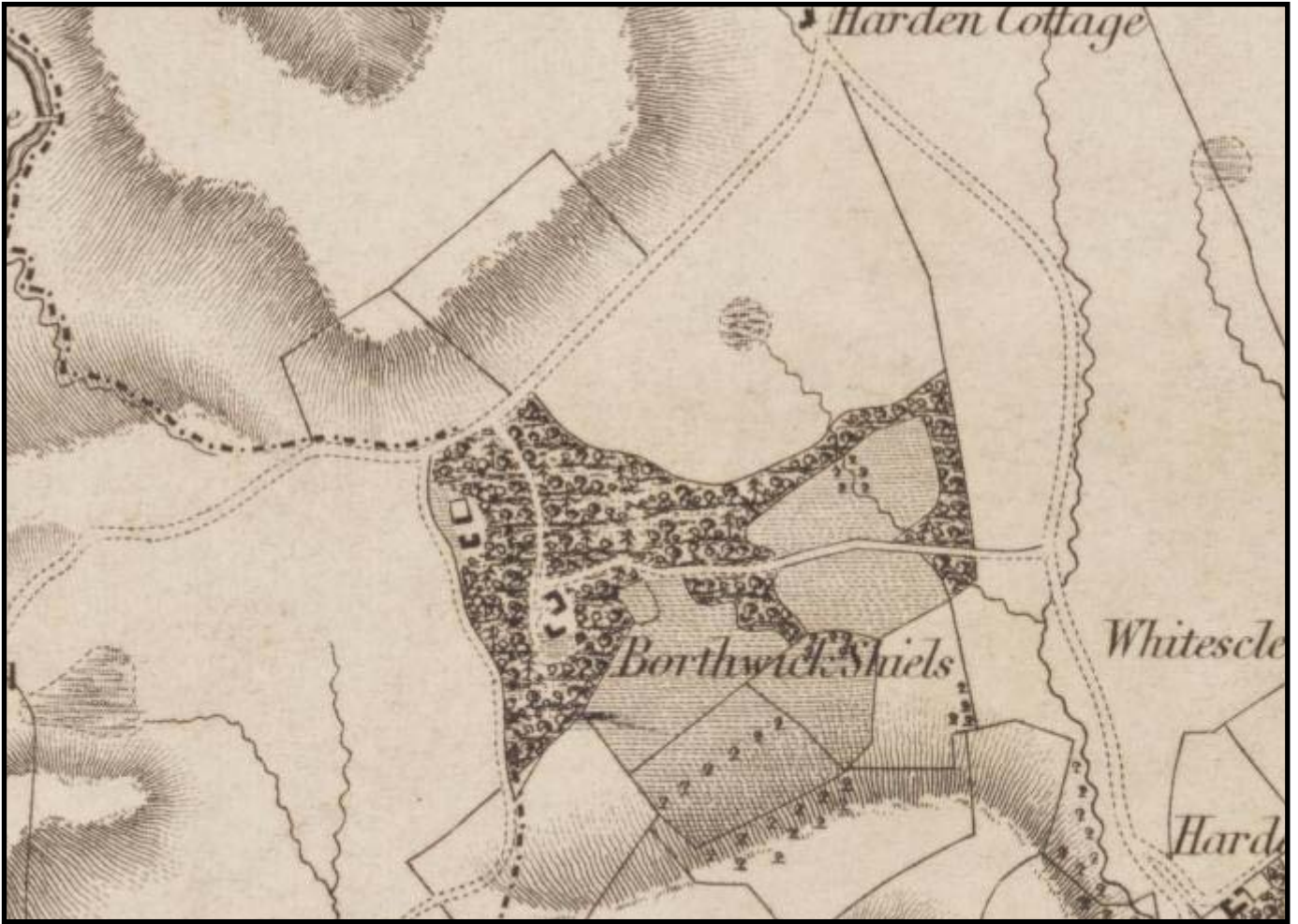
(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 4: Extract from Thomson's map, 1832



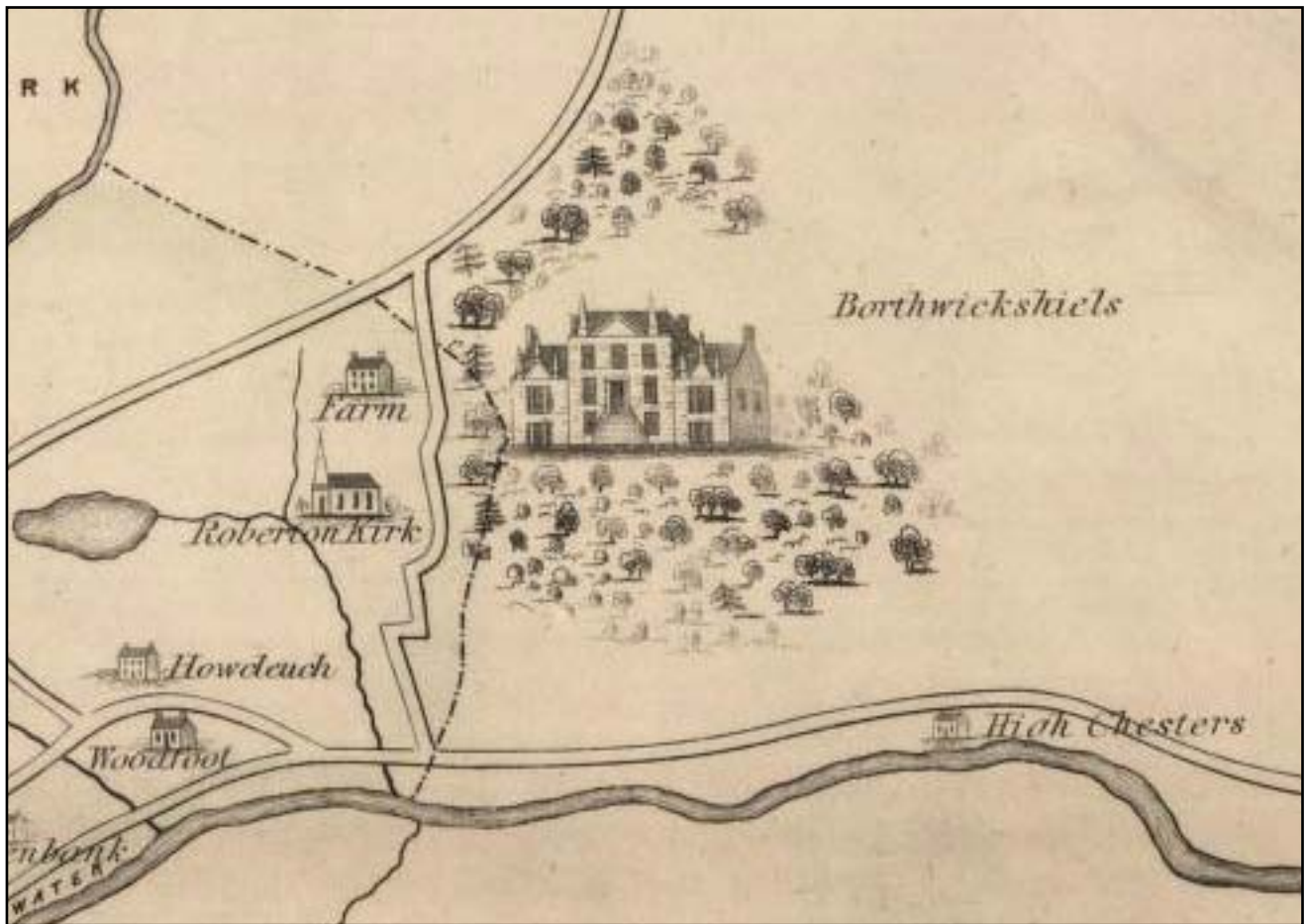
(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 5: Extract from Tennant's map, 1840



(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 6: Extract from Crawford and Brooke's map, 1843



(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 7: Extract from Mitchell's map, 1851



(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Map Library of Scotland)

Figure 8: Extract from Ordnance Survey map, 1858





Plate 1: General view of the north wall from the north-west



Plate 2: Detail of the demolished profile of the north wall



Plate 3: General view of the exterior (north-facing side) of the north wall



Plate 4: General view of the east wall from the south-east



Plate 5: General view of the east wall to the south from the east



Plate 6: Detail of the doorway in the east wall from the east



Plate 7: Detail of the finial to the doorway in the east wall



Plate 8: General view of the west wall from the NEE



Plate 9: General view of the west wall from the north-east



Plate 10: Detail of the doorway in the west wall from the east

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**Walled garden, Borthwickshiels, Hawick  
Appendix 1**

**Black & White and Colour Digital  
Photographic record**

No	Detail	Description	From	Date
1-4	-	General views of the garden	NW	26/06/09
5	E Wall	General view	NE	"
6	N Wall	Detail of the E end	NE	"
7	N Wall	General view	NE	"
8	N Wall	Detail of the exterior side	N	"
9	N wall	General view of interior side	SE	"
10	E Wall	Detail of doorway to N	W	"
11	E Wall	Detail of doorway to N	E	"
12	E Wall	Detail of exterior to S by gate	E	"
13	E Wall	General view	SE	"
14	E Wall	General view to S	SE	"
15	E Wall	General view to N	SE	"
16	E Wall	Detail of doorway	E	"
17	E Wall	General view to S	NW	"
18-19	E Wall	Finial detail to doorway to S	W	"
20	E Wall	Detail of doorway	W	"
21-23	Hedge	General views	NNW	"
24	W Wall	General view of interior side	NE	"
25-26	W Wall	General view of exterior side	W	"
27	W Wall	Detail of doorway	W	"
28	W Wall	Detail of doorway	E	"
29-30	W Wall	General view of interior side to N		

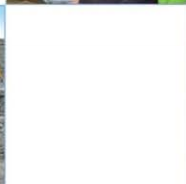
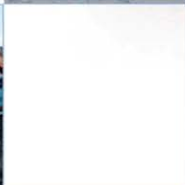
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**The Walled Garden at  
Borthwickshiels, Hawick  
Appendix 2**

**Discovery and Excavation in Scotland  
(DES) Entry**



<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Scottish Borders Council
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME</b>	Borthwickshiels
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	AOC 21382
<b>PARISH:</b>	Roberton
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Diana Sproat
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Historic Building Recording
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	None.
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	None.
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None.
<b>NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)</b>	NT 437 155
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2009
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2009
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	None.
<b>MAIN DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<b>(NARRATIVE)</b> An historic building recording survey was undertaken of the walled garden within the Borthwickshiels estate near Hawick prior to the erection of a new house within it. The walled garden was probably built in the mid19th century at the same time as the house was remodelled by John Smith.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	None.
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	None.
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	P Campbell Fraser
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	AOC Archaeology Group, Edgefield Road Industrial Estate, Edgefield Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9SY
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	edinburgh@aocarchaeology.com
<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION</b> (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS.



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