

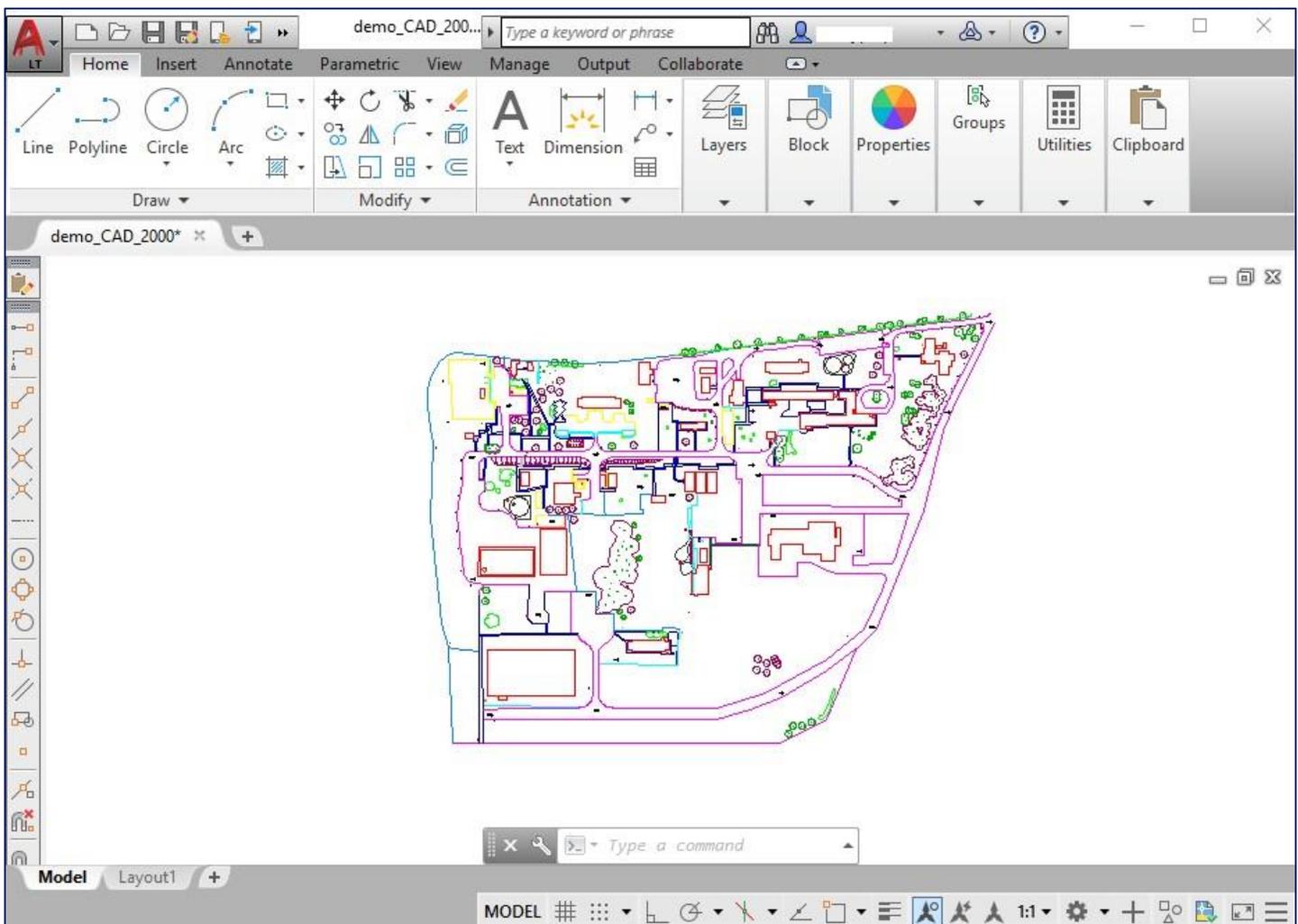
Exporting To AutoCAD as a DXF File

DXF files are the common CAD file format which was intended to be interchangeable between most CAD programs such as AutoCAD, TurboCAD etc. It is a text based file and can become quite large compared to DWG files. Axciscape exports its drawing data as DXF files (or as AutoCAD script files which must be 'Run' within AutoCAD only).

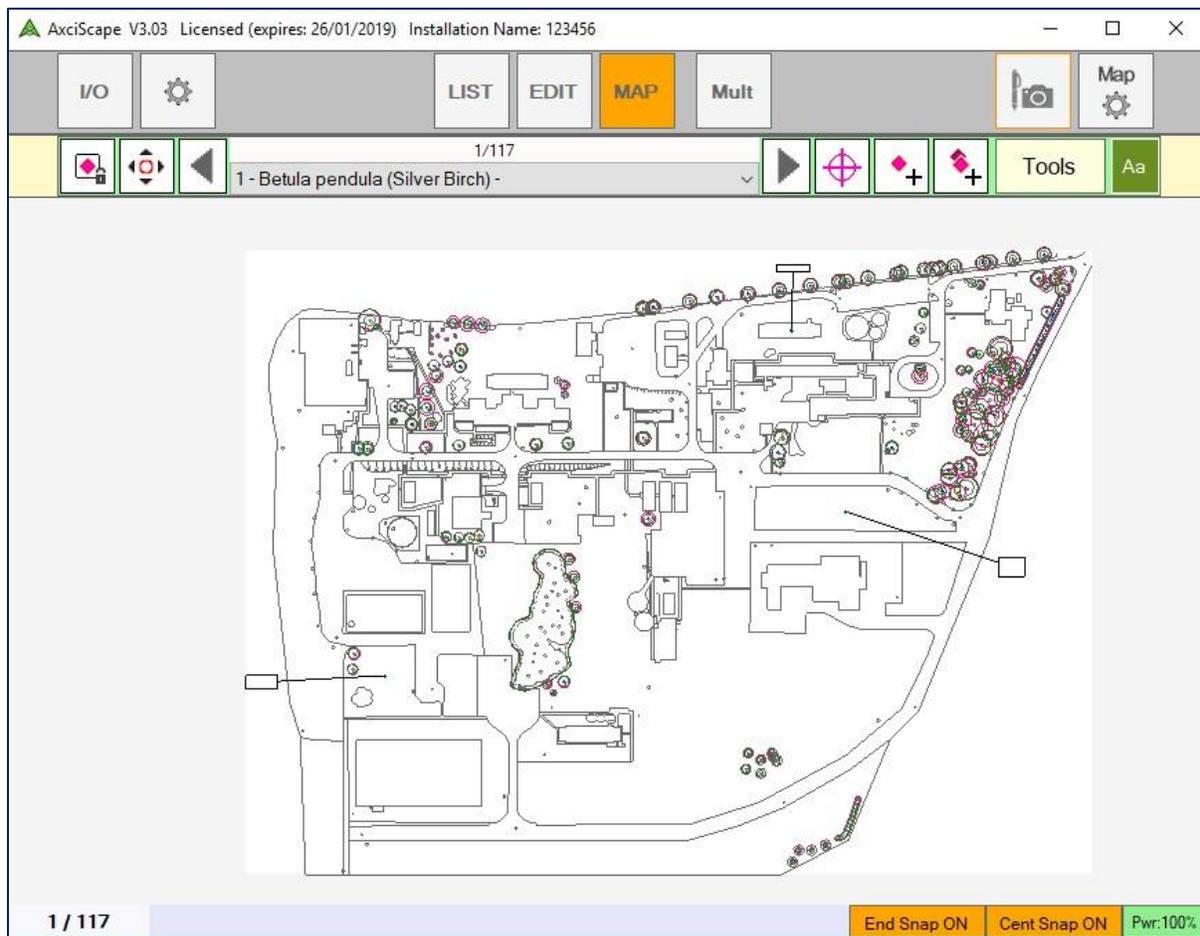
For this tutorial I am using the demo file supplied with Axciscape. I have opened AutoCAD and loaded the demo CAD file from the Axciscape workspace folder. I have also started up Axciscape and opened the demo file.

Note: Axciscape doesn't export the actual CAD drawing, it only exports the database data (trees, shrubs etc) that you have plotted onto the CAD map.

Image below shows the demo cad file loaded into AutoCAD.

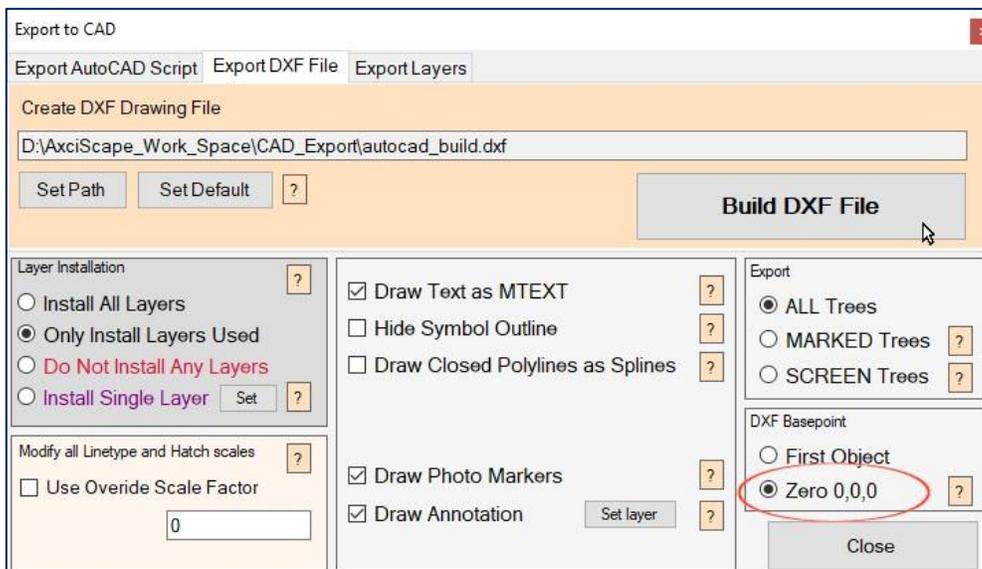


And the demo loaded into Axciscape.



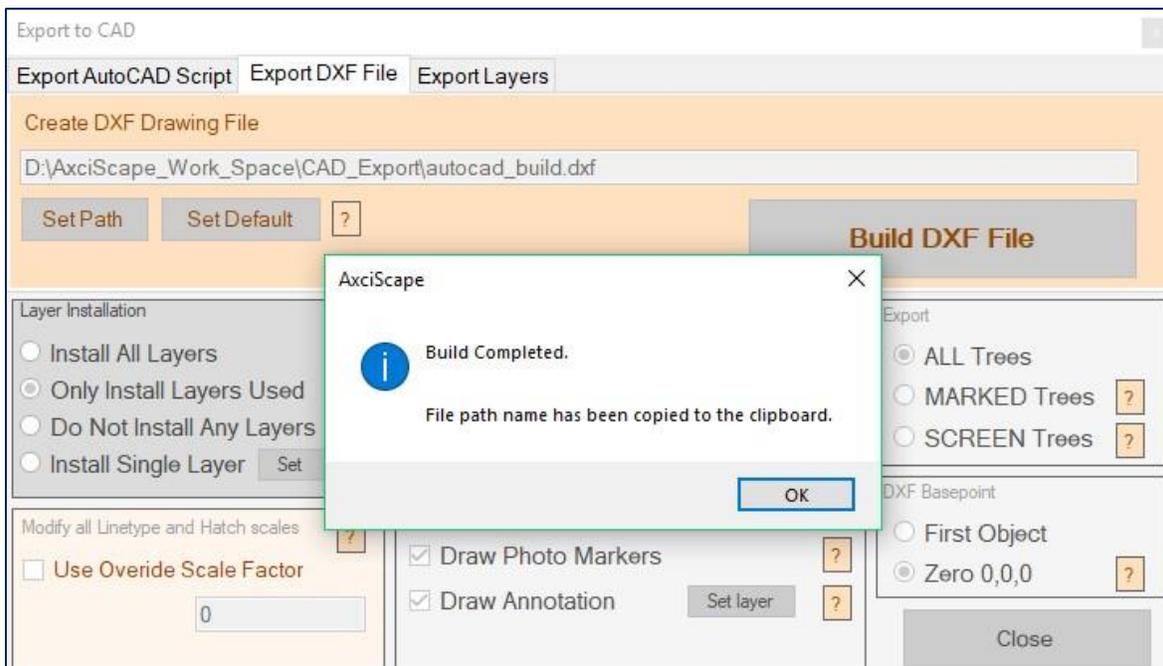
Now select the O/I interface button at the top left corner of Axciscape. Select the Export tab, click on Export to CAD and the cad export window will open.

Select the Export DXF File tab so it looks as below.

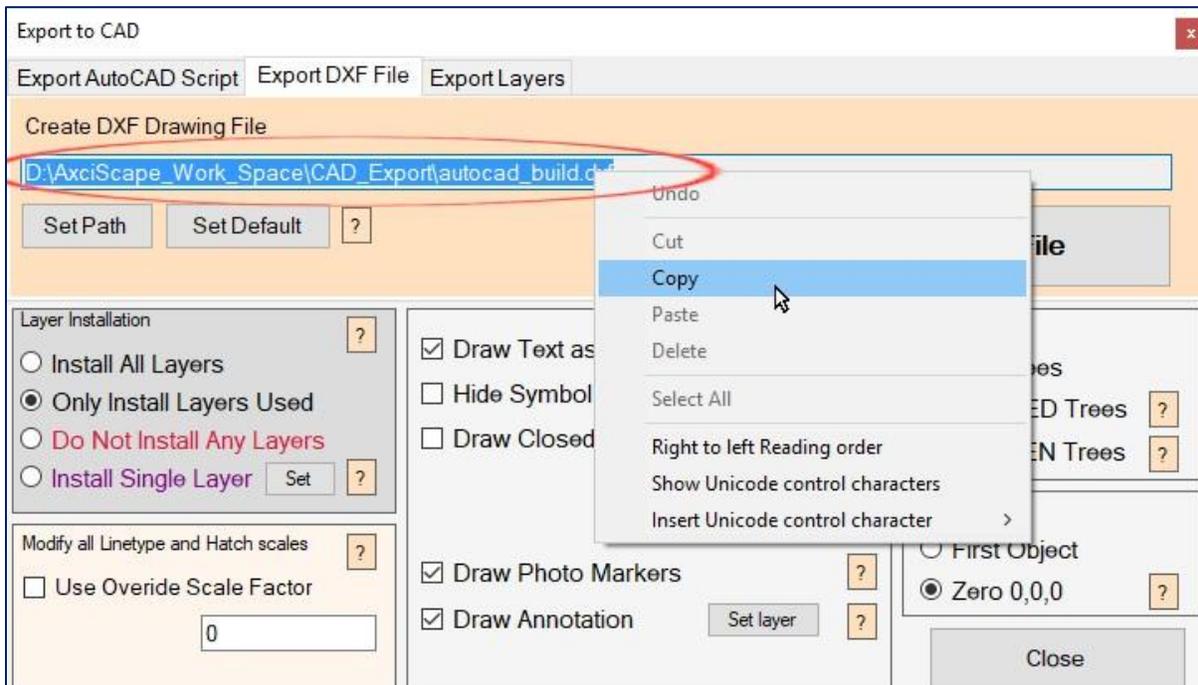


Now check that the DXF Basepoint is set to use 0,0,0 (see red circled) and click 'Build DXF File'.

You should see the completed message box as below.

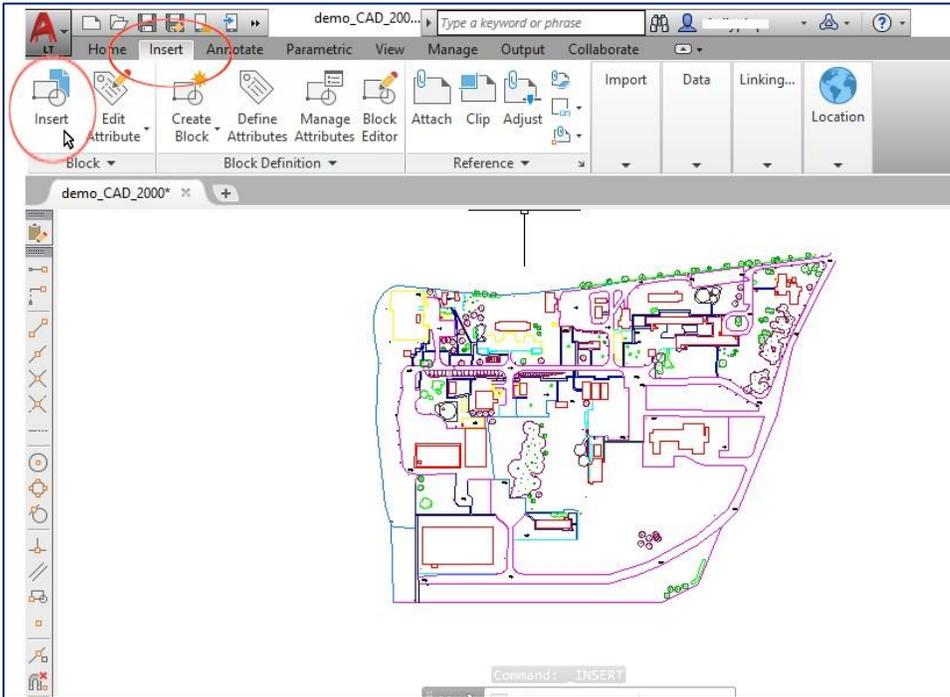


On versions 3.03 or greater, it will also say that the file path has been copied to the clipboard. This is just a time saver and if you don't have v3.03 or higher, just simply select the file path text, and copy it (see below).

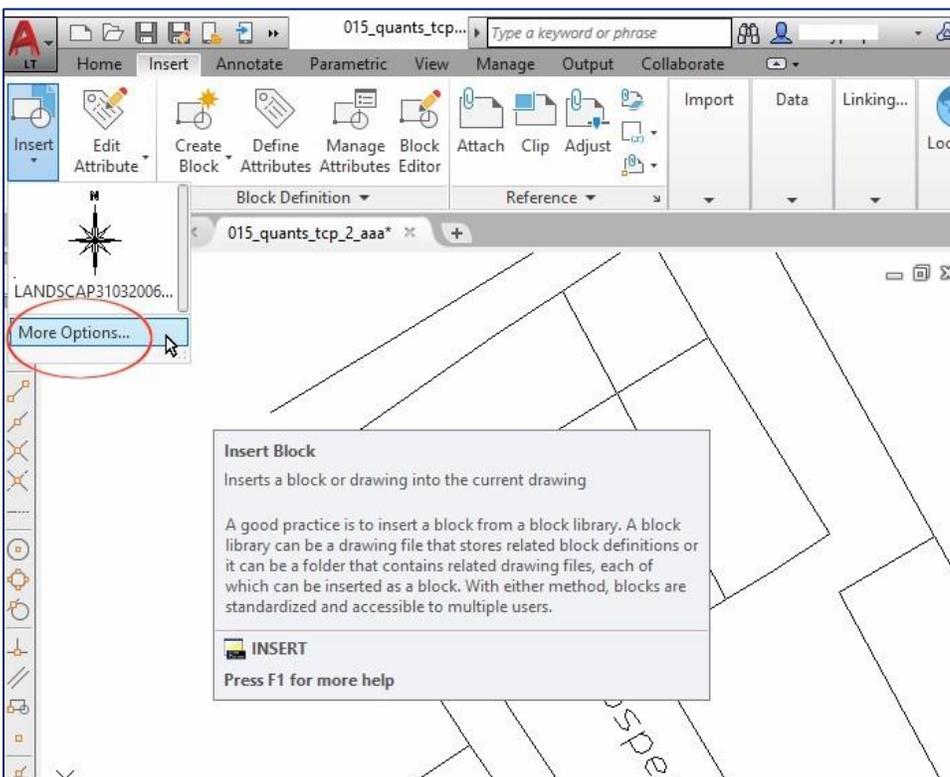


Now we turn our attention to AutoCAD where you will have your relevant CAD file loaded.

Select the INSERT tab and click on Insert.



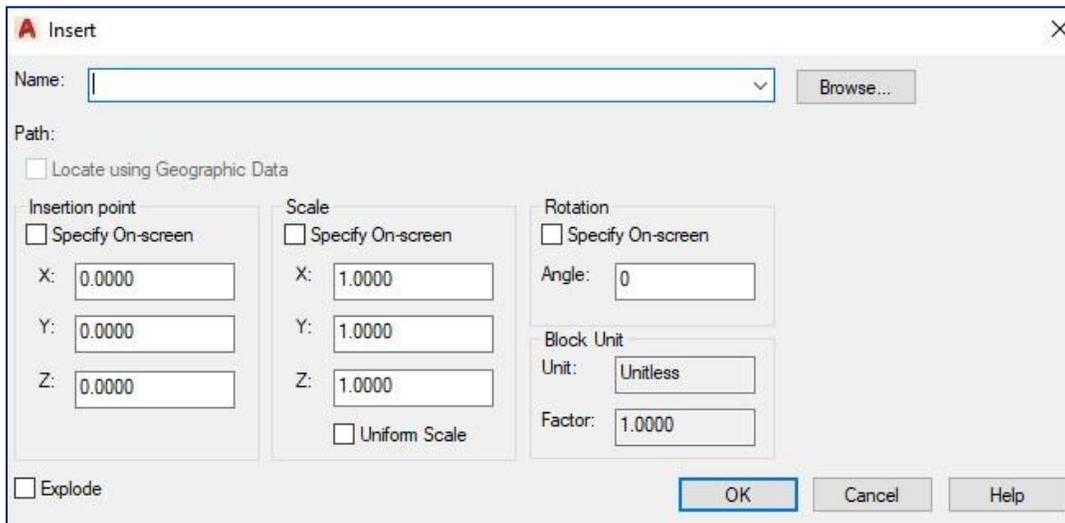
Two things may happen, the Block Insert window may open or a menu pops up (this happens if you already have blocks defined).



If a menu pops up, which will show images of current blocks used in the drawings, just click 'More Options...'.
This example shows that a north icon block is already present in the drawing.

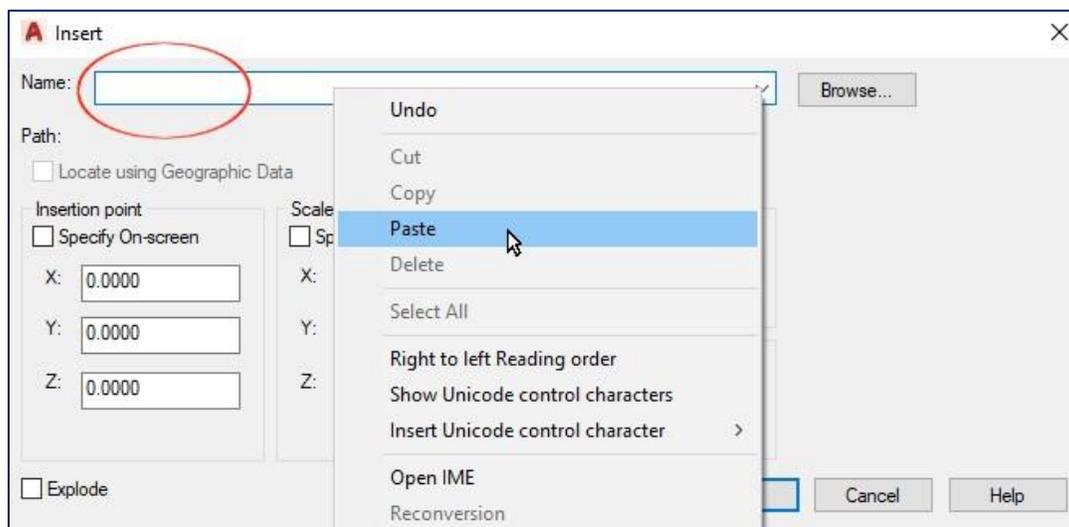
This is the box we need to see.

Before pasting our filename into it, we must check that the XYZ values are all zero. The scale values are all 1 and rotation angle is zero. To save time make sure all the check boxes are empty otherwise you will be prompted for values once the block is added to the drawing.

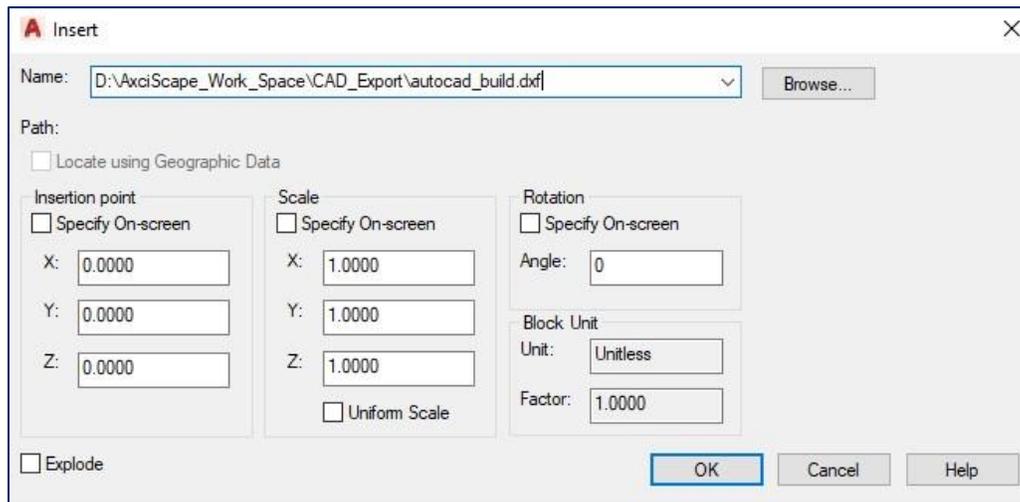


Now click the mouse in the name box, if it already has text inside it, then delete it so the box is empty.

Then Ctrl+V (or right click, select paste) so we add the file path which was automatically copied from the Axciscape build. If you have lost the clipboard text, go back to Axciscape and either build again or manually copy the file path.



And the file path should appear. Click the OK button.



And the block is added to the drawing using the 0,0,0 coordinates as its base point. So providing you used the same CAD drawing within Axciscape it will line up perfectly. If you have moved the CAD drawing within model space then you will have a problem!

