

The Development of the Gardens and Designed Landscape at CARFIN & CROSSFORD PARK, CLYDE VALLEY



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Studio 406 | South Block | 64 Osborne Street | Glasgow | G1 5QH

web: www.northlight-heritage.co.uk | tel: 0845 901 1142

email: northlight@yorkat.co.uk

Carfin & Crossford Park, Clyde Valley

NGR: NS 833 460

Report on the development of the designed landscape

on behalf of

Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

Cover Plate: Carfin Footbridge.

Report by: Louise Arthur, Janice Donaldson & Liz Meikle

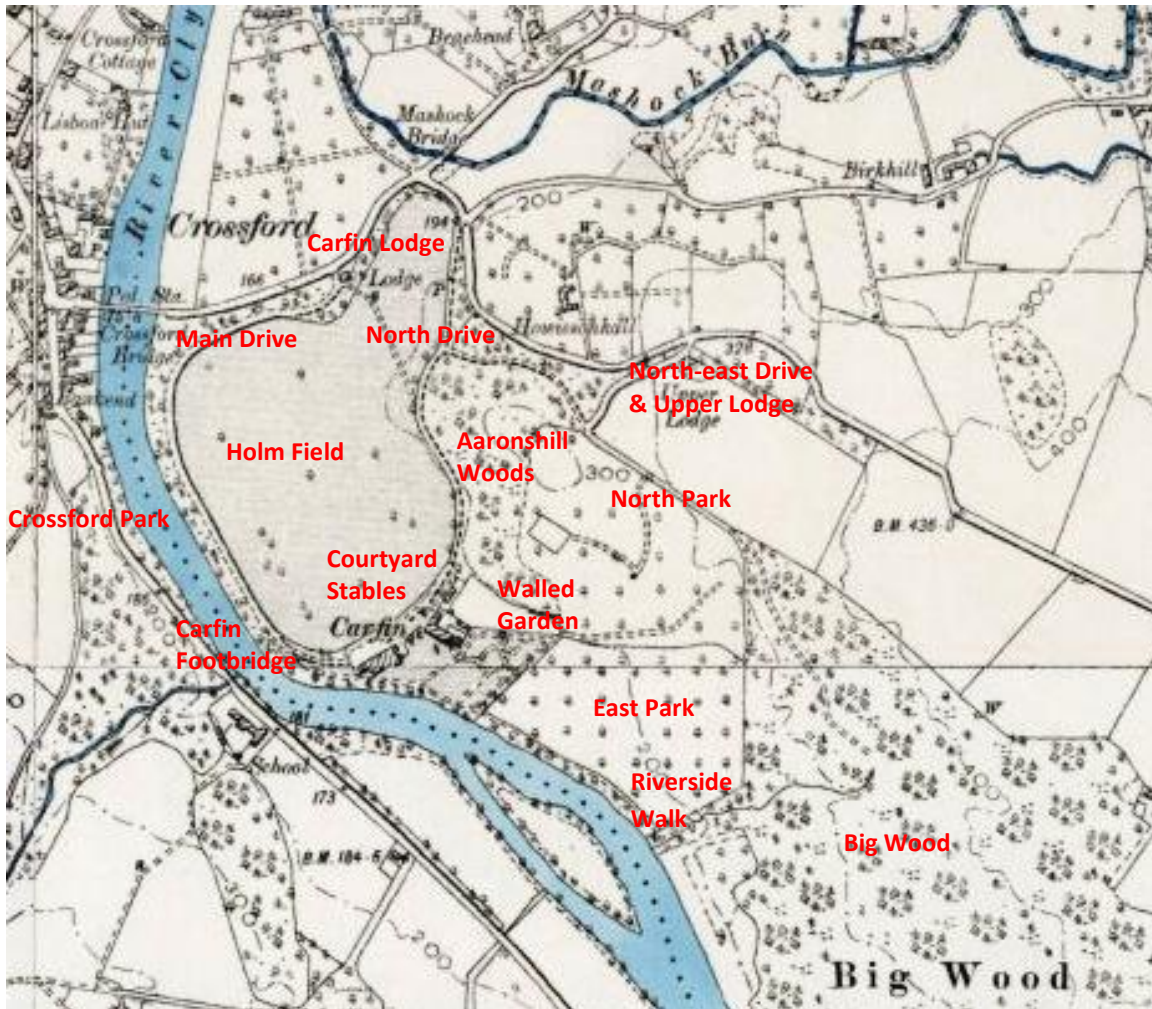
Edited by: Lorna Innes & Olivia Lelong

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1.0 Introduction to Glorious Gardens

Glorious Gardens was a two-year pilot project (2015-2017) to research and record historic gardens and designed landscapes in two areas of Scotland. The project focused on properties which are not listed in the Historic Scotland Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, but which still retain evidence for their development and have some conservation value.

One strand of the pilot project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund, focused on gardens and designed landscapes (GDLs) in the Clyde & Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) area while a separate strand, funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), studied properties in the Falkirk local authority area.

The Glorious Gardens pilot project was initiated and managed by Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage, who contracted Northlight Heritage to recruit, train and support groups of volunteers to conduct the research and produce reports on properties in each area during 2015-2017.

This report has been written by Louise Arthur, Janice Donaldson and Liz Meikle, the volunteers who conducted the research and survey work. The assessment of significance (section 7) was conducted by Northlight Heritage based on their findings.

2.0 Introduction to Carfin

Carfin designed landscape surrounds the site of the now demolished Carfin House (NGR: NS 833 460). The property lies mainly in the parish of Lanark on the north side of the river Clyde and close to the village of Crossford. Crossford Park, a public park on the south side of the river, is within Lesmahagow Parish; it was once a part of the Carfin Estate and was known as Davingill Woods.

In the 1880s the property extended to 300 acres, 32 acres of which were recorded as parkland. The mansion house formerly sat between the West Parkland, also known as 'The Holm' or 'Holmfield', and the River Clyde. Carfin House faced up river toward the village of Hazelbank and would have had exceptional views over the Clyde. Wooded slopes framed the house to the north-east, and the river meanders along the south-west edge of the property. Today the Clyde Walkway takes in this beautiful scenery and passes the late 19th-century ornamental iron footbridge that once linked the estate with the opposite bank. Nempflar Moor Road borders the property to the north-east and Braidwood Road to the north-west. The south and west are defined by the River Clyde and the Lanark Road (A72).

Carfin mansion house was demolished in 1957, but other built components remain, including the coach house, stables and Walled Garden. There are no statutory designations (such as listed buildings) on the Carfin estate presently. In the early 1980s, the property operated as a business and was known as the Clyde Valley Country Estate and later as Valley International Park. At present (2017), the estate is in administration and the future of the designed landscape is unclear.

3.0 Methods

The study followed the project methodology, as detailed in the Glorious Gardens Method Statement (see project archive, held at the National Record of the Historic Environment maintained by HES).

It involved the consultation of key historic maps, aerial photographs, local and national archives, and databases of heritage assets and statutory designations. The results were entered on a Property Information form, hosted on a secure server, to ensure a consistent level of recording.

The desk-based research was followed by a systematic walkover survey in April 2015-May 2016 to identify and record surviving components and key elements of the historic designed landscape. The survey employed a recording system designed for the project that combines written field notes, tablet-based data capture and photography. All data gathered during the project are available for consultation as part of the Glorious Gardens archive, held at the National Record of the Historic Environment maintained by HES. The sources consulted are listed in section 7.

The information gathered has been synthesised to establish a baseline understanding of the development of the designed landscape and its current state, including its overall structure, surviving components and conservation opportunities.

4.0 Desk-based research results

4.1 Historic maps

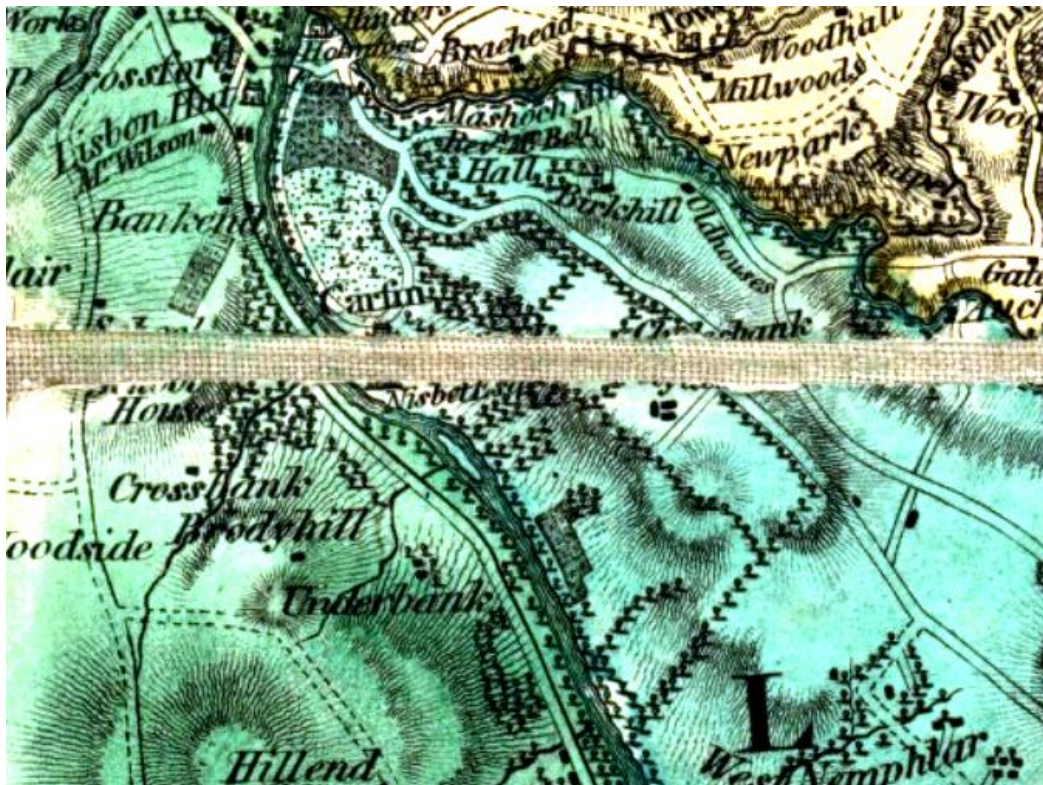
Crossford and later Carfin appear on maps from the late 16th century onward. This section summarises the changes to the designed landscape, which are captured on each of the more informative historic maps. Section 6 draws out further evidence from the maps as it relates to specific components of the landscape.

Illus 2: Pont's Glasgow and the county of Lanark (Pont 34) (1593-96).



The town of Lanark is clearly visible on Pont's map, as are the River Clyde and a number of other recognisable names still current in the area today, for example 'Corsford' (Crossford).

Illus 4: Forrest's The County of Lanark from actual survey (1816).



Forrest reveals several changes in the landscape since Roy, not least by the inclusion of the name 'Carfin' for the first time. The West Parkland (Holm Field), which is to the rear (north-west) of the house, is clearly defined. The proprietor's name is shown as 'Nisbett, Esq'. The darker area beyond Holm Field and almost opposite Bankend is likely to be an orchard. There are a number of new areas of woodland and shelterbelts. Several fields have been enclosed by shelterbelts. To the south-east of the mansion, in the East Park, on the banks of the Clyde, is what appears to be an enclosed garden. Access to the house appears to be via a curvilinear drive which encircles Holm Field and the orchard beyond. There is also what appears to be a riverside drive, since the map shows no access from it to the road leading to the river crossing.

Illus 5: Ordnance Survey 1st edition six-inch map, Lanarkshire XXV. Surveyed 1858-9, published 1864.



This map was surveyed just over 40 years after Forrest's map and depicts the estate in much greater detail. Carfin mansion house is shown as an elongated rectangular structure. The Courtyard Stables and Walled Garden are also now clearly visible.

The Holm Park remains open parkland, probably used for grazing. The Pleasure Walk or drive along the river is still there, with other clearly defined pathways around the estate. The top north-east corner of the Holm Park has been planted as orchard, as have several areas in Aaronshill Wood (See p.5). There is now a road bridge over the river at Crossford, replacing an earlier ford. The land to the south-east of the house appears to be used as grazing as is the case with the fields running alongside the boundary of the North Park.

Illus 6: Ordnance Survey 2nd edition six-inch map, Lanarkshire XXIV. Surveyed 1896, published 1898.



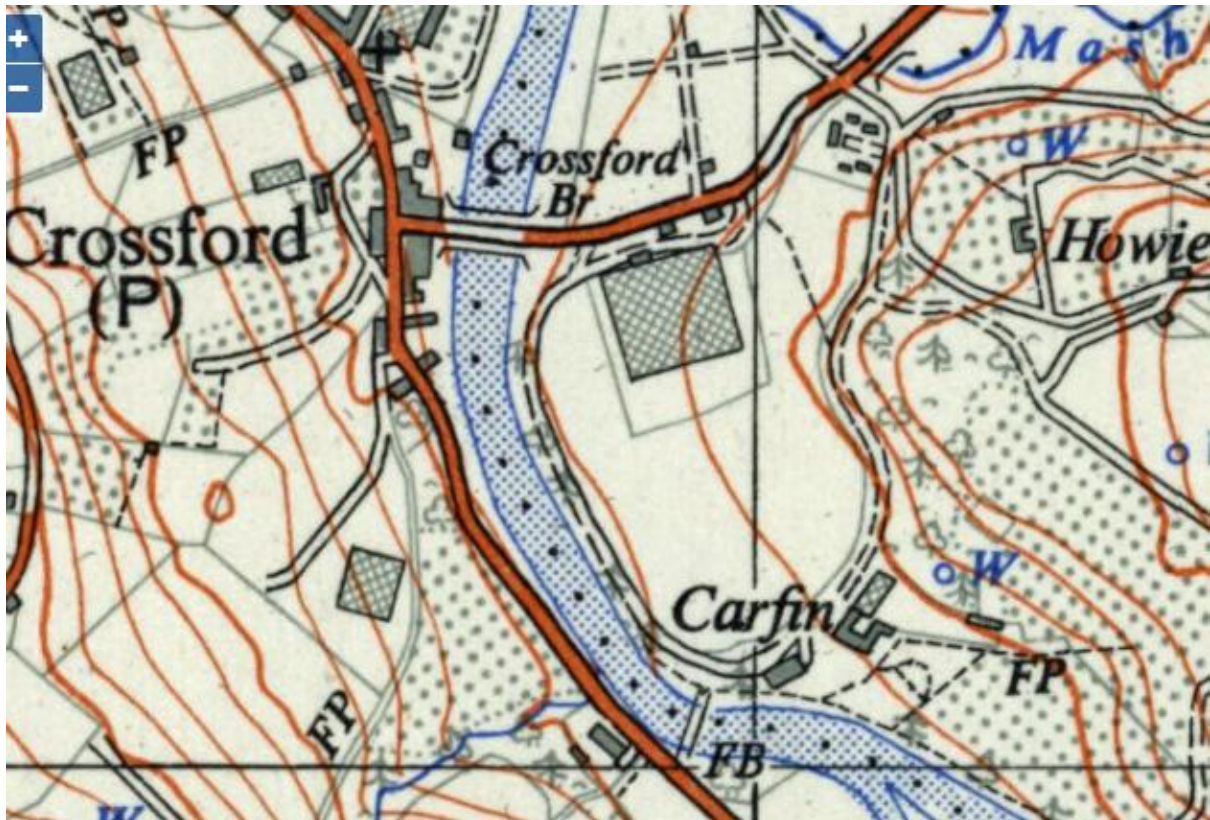
The mansion has been extended, and additions have been made by 1896. The drive or walk along the riverbank has been opened up to the road leading to the new Crossford bridge and is possibly the main entrance to the house at this time. The Walled Garden now extends further east and has become sub-triangular in shape. A line of glasshouses has been erected on the south-facing north wall. There are also glasshouses outside the walled garden to the north-west. The area to the south-east of the house and stable block has been developed with gardens and pleasure walks. There has been a significant increase in the amount of land given over to productive orchards including Aaronshill Wood, North Park and East Park. The two lodge houses on the main drives have been built, and the folly is depicted. The orchard in the north-east corner of the Holm has now been returned to park land. A rectangular clearing has been made in the orchard in what was the North Park. By its shape, it could be a tennis court.

Illus 7: Ordnance Survey one-inch 3rd edition. Sheet 23 Hamilton. Revised 1901-1902, published 1905.



The ornamental iron Carfin Footbridge, which was built in the 1890s, is shown on this early 20th century OS map. This bridge connected the Carfin estate, and more specifically the house and pleasure walks, to the west bank of the river. The map also shows the upgraded entrance to the property, leading now from Carfin Lodge near Crossford Bridge, shown on the OS 1st edition map (See p.12) as a riverside pleasure walk or drive. Most of what had previously been shown as orchard in front of the house has become mixed woodland, although there still appears to be a small enclosed section next to the river and the Riverside Walk.

Illus 8: Ordnance Survey 1:25000 Lanarkshire NS84 (1956).



This 1956 map shows a small council estate in the north-east corner of the Holm Park. The Youngs of Troon who bought the estate in 1935 have established glass houses for tomato growing in Holm Park. A long, triangular wooded area on the west bank of the river later became Crossford Public Park.

5.0 Timeline for the Carfin Designed Landscape

Mid 18th century	In c 1750, the estate was named 'Holmhead' on the Roy map (Illus 3) and included an enclosed orchard with two structures.
1788	In 1788 Archibald Nesbitt IV (1746-1807), bought what was probably quite a modest property called Holmhead from Simon Chapman and renamed it Carfin. He had married Grizel (or Grace) Carmichael, daughter of Daniel Carmichael of Mauldslie, over 20 years earlier and thus would have known the Clyde Valley well.
Early 19th century	The Nisbetts built a mansion house, possibly in the early part of the 19th century. Archibald V inherited Carfin from his parents, but he died a bachelor and without issue in 1844. Carfin

then passed to the sons and surviving daughter of Jane Vigour (Archibald V's sister) and Thomas Gordon, and was sold to Stephen Anderson in May 1845. (Skar 2010).

1851 Census returns for 1851 and records of sales of lime (viewed in Lanark Library archives) confirm Anderson as the owner at this time. It is likely that lime was being used to improve the soils on the estate. *Nelson's Handbook to Scotland: for Tourists* (1860) notes that 'Carfin House, [is] the seat of J. Anderson Esq...' (Wilson 1860, 170), presumably referring to the son or heir of Stephen Anderson.

In 1851, Captain Gavin Steel of Ballintore, Kirriemuir, purchased the property and returned the estate to its original name: Holmhead. At this time the estate was much larger, with Birkhill Farm as its mains farm.

Mid 19th century By the mid 19th century, Carfin House was an important feature of Crossford village. It provided employment to many in the district as well as a market for the merchandise and products of local traders and craftsmen. Records of fruit sales for the estate and many others survive (Jamieson 2001).

Late 19th century The golden age of Carfin estate began with its purchase by James Noble Graham in 1880. Graham was involved in the port wine trade, and in his early years of ownership he invested in the upkeep and development of the estate. The Graham family employed a growing number of people from Crossford and the surrounding area, and the local economy was buoyant as a result. The family was popular locally and involved themselves in the community. They had four sons and two daughters, and the church and school benefited from their generosity and support. Mrs Graham, in particular, identified herself closely with the Underbank school and gave generously to it, particularly at the Christmas period. This generosity was remembered for many years (Hoy 1946).

James Graham had the ornamental suspension footbridge across the River Clyde built in the 1890s. It led into the Carfin estate opposite Underbank school and had a gate midway along it. A footpath along the south-western bank of the river was often used by the public for Sunday afternoon walks, and the gate was to prevent people from crossing the bridge from the path and entering the grounds of Carfin House (ibid). The bridge was fabricated by P & R Flemming & Co of 29 Argyll Street in Glasgow. Its restoration in the 1990s (Liddel & Young 2010) was awarded a Certificate of Approbation by the Commission for the Restoration of Rural Scotland and a Saltire Conservation Commendation from the Saltire Society, both in 1993. Today, however, it is again falling into disrepair.

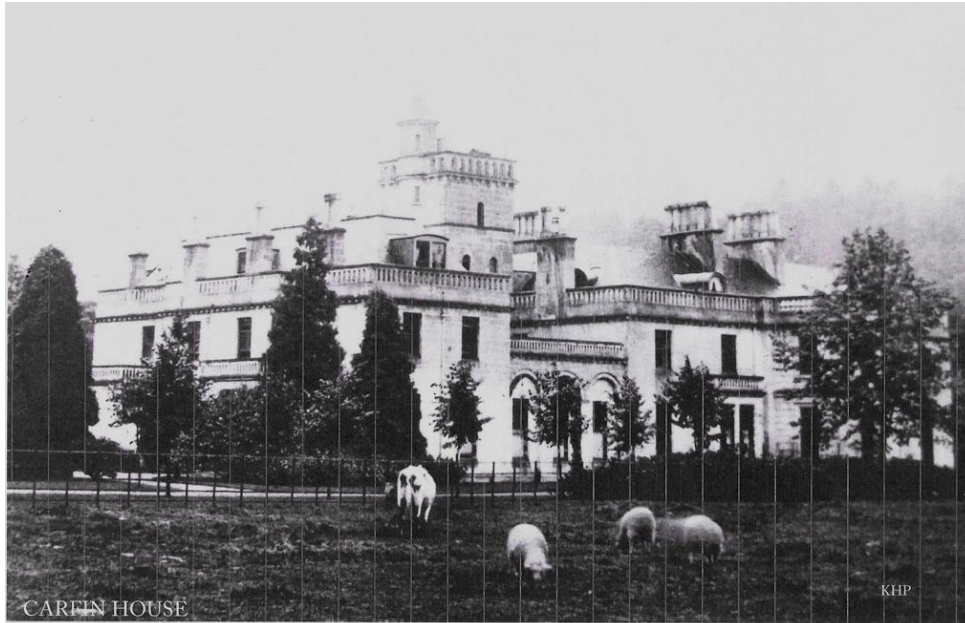
The front of Carfin House faced south-west and up river, with ornate balconies along the wall heads. It is possible that these were added by Graham to give the classical mansion a Portuguese flavour, a reference to the source of his wealth.



Illus 9: A postcard showing Carfin House from around the turn of the 20th century.



Illus 10: Carfin House (date unknown but probably early 20th century) showing to the right of the house the Wellingtonia which survives to this day.



Illus 11: View of Carfin House from the Holm Park (date unknown but probably early 20th century) showing the rear of the house and strap fencing, much of which is still in place today.

Illus 10 and 11 show the house in its setting to the front and rear respectively. In Illus 10, the bank descending to the river appears landscaped and planted with shrubbery. Hoy (1946) described the house as facing

'up the river towards Hazelbank, and in those days the garden before the massive windows was a thing of beauty. Running along the side of the river, its major feature was the green carpet which stretched as far as the fruit orchard. Shrubberies flanked this on either side, and the adornments close to the house were the rose plots, all the product of minute attention. The orchard was a concentrated growing ground of the products of the district. The greenhouses contained vines, peaches and nectarines were among their products.'

Illus 11 shows the grounds to the rear of the house, with cattle and sheep grazing in the Holm Park (West Parkland), which is enclosed by iron strap fencing typical of many Clyde Valley estates at this time. There are abundant shrubs and trees of different varieties, including both deciduous and evergreen examples, along with pathways around the house.

Hoy (1946) records:

'The other side of the house, with its very beautiful designed entrance, had stretched in front of it the spacious Holm Park. A lovely flat enclosure of grass surrounded by lofty Beech trees, the park was much loved by Mr Graham, who

grazed Polo ponies there, and in the nineties had an Arab stallion. Round each side of the park ran carriageways from the lodge to the house. There was another entrance to the estate at High Lodge. Bordering the park along the riverbank and partly screening the house is a mass of majestic trees of almost every indigenous species and including some exotics'.

Hugh Smith, a resident of Crossford who recently retired from his job as lollipop man at Underbank Primary School, related the following. When he was a young boy, an older man who had worked in the gardens of Carfin House told him that one of his jobs was to collect the ripe peaches from the conservatory. He was not allowed to handle the ripe peaches with his bare hands; he was required to use a special tin cup to deliver them to the mistress of the house. It was common in the late 19th and early 20th centuries to wear gloves when collecting peaches and other exotic fruit from peach houses or conservatories, in order to avoid bruising the fruit.

- Early 20th century Mrs Graham died at Carfin on 4th February 1928 after a brief illness (*Lanark Gazette*, February 1928), and Mr Graham died in Oporto the same year. When Mrs Graham died, a piece of land on Underbank Farm, which belonged to the estate, was gifted to the school board of Lesmahagow by James Noble. (Registrar of Sasines 1475, no 5, July 9th 1928).
- Some years before World War I, Mr Graham had purchased the mansion house of Stonebyres for £30,000 and paid up to £70,000 to convert it (Hoy 1946). Mr Graham went bankrupt in 1923. Gavin Scott, in a letter of 1924, stated that there were three reasons for the bankruptcy. During World War I the presence of mines adversely affected Graham's shipping interests. Graham had also invested heavily in prospecting for oil in Egypt and unfortunately for him no oil was found. It was also believed that Graham was the subject of a fraudulent agent in Rangoon and lost a considerable amount of money. In the mid 1920s, as a result of these financial misfortunes, parts of the estate were sold off and, following Graham's death, the estate was soon broken up.
- 1935-89 In 1935, Carfin was bought by Youngs of Troon, who owned a bus company in Renfrewshire. They ran the estate as a poultry and fruit farm, and established one of the largest tomato growing businesses in the Clyde valley. Large glasshouses were built on the Holm Park for this industry. In 1957 the house was demolished but the Stable Block, Coach House and Walled Garden were left standing.
- 1989 - present The estate was developed under the ownership of James Warnock of Sandyholm as the Clyde Valley Country Estate, with attractions including a restaurant and various shops. In 2000 the estate was acquired by the Smith family and the business was renamed Valley International Park. In 2013 it went into administration. It is currently in a neglected condition.

6.0 Components of the Designed Landscape

The following designed landscape components still exist at Carfin.

Category	Name
Gardens	Walled Garden Pleasure Gardens
Offices	Courtyard Stables
Drives & approaches	Main Drive & Carfin Lodge North Drive Carfin Footbridge Forestry Road North-east Drive & Upper Lodge
Policy parkland	West Parkland: The Holm North Park North Park Folly East Park Crossford Park
Policy woodland	Big Wood Aaronshill Wood
Pleasure walks/drives	Riverside Walk

This section summarises the historical development of each component and describes its current character and condition. Illus 1 shows their locations.

6.1 Gardens

Walled Garden (Illus 13, 14, 15)

The Walled Garden is depicted on the 1st edition OS maps, but it appears smaller than its current size and may have been walled only on the north, which would have provided a south-facing wall for growing fruit.

By 1898 (the 2nd edition OS map), it had been altered and expanded. Three small glasshouses stood on platforms (still visible today) against the north-east wall, with another in the south-west corner.

Today, the Walled Garden at Carfin is extensive and structurally it survives very well. It is built of large, blonde sandstone ashlar masonry; the walls average about three metres in height. It contains three distinct areas defined by stone steps and walling; these appear to correspond to the three glasshouses shown on the 2nd edition OS map. Pins and small joist holes in the south-facing wall indicate where espaliered fruit trees grew. Trees and shrubs (including laurel and yew) grow in the north-west part of the garden.

The eastern interior housed a petting zoo in recent years and there are remains of old shelters, cages, benches and fences, along with several large stone blocks. There is an original entrance and makeshift wooden door in the north-east wall and another (blocked with timber) in the south wall. The west part is mono-blocked and contains a large, abandoned glass conservatory that was previously used as a shop, along with an old roundabout and a considerable amount of debris. Part of the western wall and south-west corner were dismantled to construct a modern garden centre.

Pleasure Gardens (Illus 13)

The historic OS maps depict pleasure gardens around the house and stretching out in the direction of the Walled Garden and the orchards in the East Park. There were pathways across the lawns that framed the house leading past a shrubbery, a fountain and a sundial. Illus 13 also shows urns and climbing roses.

Today, this area is mostly under tarmac and serves as a car park, while the site of the house is a flat, grassed area. One magnificent Wellingtonia (see Illus 10) survives.

6.2 Offices

Courtyard Stables (Illus 16, 17)

The Courtyard Stables were built before 1858, when the OS first mapped the area. There is an arched entranceway facing towards the house and the river across the East Park and another leading towards the Walled Garden. It is built of blond sandstone ashlar masonry with a rectangular courtyard. The main, south-facing arched entranceway would have led horses and carriages out towards the house. There are iron rings and other fixings along the walls for tethering horses and possibly for a gate.

The interior today is in a much altered state. A modern garden centre and café (now closed) have been built on the north side and there is evidence of alterations to the masonry around the courtyard walls. Large apertures around the courtyard would have given horses access to stables; along the east, these are now covered by glass and metal doors for former shops, but upper and lower iron hinges remain from their previous use. Large, modern glass units for former offices and a restaurant fill much of the interior space. A metal and glass canopy covers the entire courtyard and a concrete base covers most of the floor. A narrow, double stone cornice runs around the courtyard wall above the level of the doorways, and there are square and circular windows set into the crow-stepped gables. Other earlier features include a refurbished gas lamp set in one wall and an area of encaustic mosaic tile flooring.

Outside, the former coach house has been modified with a large extension faced with re-used stone blocks; until recently it was the Coach House Restaurant. Two other modern, two-storey extensions on the east were formerly a hotel. Some small stone buildings to the east of the Stable Block may have originally been an estate office and gardener's cottage, but they are much modified and in poor condition. Areas of the surrounding ground lie under decking, crazy paving and gravel. Several holly and Lawson cypress trees stand outside the Courtyard Stables on the south.

6.3 Drives & Approaches

Main Drive (Illus 20)

The Main Drive was established by 1816, as it appears on Forrest's map (Illus 3). Today it leads off the B7056 road from Braidwood, close to the stone bridge that crosses the River Clyde at Crossford. It originally led past Carfin Lodge between two blond sandstone gate posts and curved around the north and west edge of Holm Park. The entrance was shifted in the early 20th century, after the Grahams sold the estate, to its current position closer to the bridge.

The drive is bordered by iron strap fencing along most of its length. It meanders past the site of Carfin House, the Courtyard Stables and the Walled Garden and merges with the North Drive. Just before it passes the house site, opposite Carfin Footbridge, the track for a miniature train (built for the Clyde Valley Country Estate in the 1980s) crosses it. Trees and shrubs grow along much of its length, including Corsican pine, Jack pine, beech, oak, Scots pine, Norway spruce, lime, Douglas fir, sycamore, holly, silver birch and rhododendron. The road is very badly pot holed.

North Drive (Illus 18)

The North Drive is a continuation of the Main Drive that sweeps past the site of the mansion house. It exits the estate onto Nemphlar Moor Road between two sandstone gate posts. Like Main Drive and Forestry Road, it is first depicted on Forrest's (1816) map, and was probably historically a service drive. It is bordered on the east by policy woodland, while on the west the ground slopes down towards Holm Park. Sections of concrete and iron strap fencing are visible along sections. Scattered along the west side are sandstone blocks from stone pillars, many decorated with a Greek key pattern. The drive is unsurfaced and in reasonable condition, although there is evidence of erosion and land slippage at various points along the east side. Ivy, ferns, rhododendron and holly grow along it, as well as (in spring) snowdrops and daffodils.

Carfin Footbridge (Illus 21)

Mr Graham had this ornamental iron footbridge built in 1897 to connect the south and north banks of the River Clyde and provide a fine pedestrian approach to Carfin House that offered splendid views of the river. The bridge is a trellis ironwork structure with three sets of towers, topped by electric lanterns, and a full-height iron gate halfway along it. The bridge is supported by a stone pillar in the middle of the river. Until fairly recently, it was used by local residents to access the estate and the river walkway, but it has fallen into disrepair and has been closed off.

Forestry Road (Illus 19)

This is first depicted on Forrest's (1816) map. Today it is a single-track road leading east from North Drive along the north-east edge of Aaronshill Wood. The surface is very rough and overgrown, and metal gates close off both ends.

North-East Drive (Illus 25)

This service drive was established in the late 19th century, as it first appears on the 2nd edition OS map (1896), leading into the estate from the Nemphlar Moor Road; it would have serviced the areas of orchard and woodland on the valley slopes. Upper Lodge, built in blond sandstone like the other estate buildings, was constructed at the entrance. Today, the track is still in use, but the lodge has been modernised and much of its original character altered.

6.4 Policy Parkland

Holm Park (Illus 22)

This defined area of parkland first appears on Forrest's map of 1816 and it retains its essential form on subsequent historic maps. Before buying Carfin in 1880, James Noble Graham had been honorary secretary of the first Polo, or Horse Hockey, Club in India. His polo ponies were grazed on Holm Park in the 1890s, along with an Arabian stallion. At this time, the park was surrounded by mature beech trees. After 1935, glasshouses for tomato and fruit growing were built on this area of parkland.

Today, much of it remains open parkland under grass, shrubs and young trees, with early 20th-century iron strap fencing around it. It is used to graze horses. There are blocks of council housing with a recreation area at its western edge, and a small housing estate at its south-east corner. Above the parkland to the north can be seen a substantial modern house, which is actually situated among others at the top of the North Drive. At present the remaining parkland is used for grazing horses. There is evidence of the original strap fencing from the time of the Grahams all around the Holm boundary.

North Park (Illus 23, 25)

This sloping, south-facing area of parkland appears as early as 1816 (Forrest's map), defined by shelterbelts and extended down the valley side from the Nemphlar Moor Road. In the mid 19th century (OS 1st edition map), its lower portion was an orchard.

Today the area is under grass, sloping gently south to north and undulating east to west, and is accessed from the Forestry Road. It is bordered by North-east Drive and Upper Lodge. It is currently used for grazing ponies and is rather neglected, but in the past (1970s and 1980s) it was used for grain cultivation. One very old apple tree remains in the parkland from the former orchards. The northern part contains a small, knee-high brick structure that covers a cistern. According to a local source, this was one of several cisterns established on high ground to collect rainwater for the Walled Garden.

North Park Folly (Illus 30)

The Folly stands in the southern part of North Park, separated from the Walled Garden by a steeply sloping area of Aaronshill Wood. It is in an area of undulating grassland and some fruit trees. It provides vistas to the south-east over Hazelbank Braes towards Blackhill and south to the River Clyde across the house site and much of Carfin estate. It is shown on the 2nd edition OS (surveyed 1896) and was probably built by the Graham family.

The folly is an octagonal, roofless tower, constructed of blonde sandstone. Each side is approximately 2 by 6 metres with a long, narrow, keyhole shaped window. The arched entrance faces to the north-east, and remnants of a wooden doorframe (about 2.5 metre high) are still visible. One window aperture contains evidence of a wooden frame, which suggests that the windows were glazed at one time. A crenellated parapet runs along the top of the wall. Inside, halfway up the wall, are the remains of a wooden plate inserted in the wall, with joist holes below it, which would have supported a viewing platform. At present the floor is overgrown with brambles and nettles, with the rotting remains of an 0.75-metre high wooden platform and ramp. The stonework is generally in good condition and it may have been repointed in the past, but overall the structure is neglected. It is not recorded in the National Record of the Historic Environment for Scotland.

East Park (Illus 24, 27)

This area of policy parkland was, like North Park and Holm Park, established by the early 19th century, providing views from the house southward along the river and valley. In 1816, as Forrest's map depicted, it contained an enclosed rectangular garden by the riverbank, but by the mid 19th century it was open parkland stretching eastward from Carfin House between the river on the south, Big Wood on the south-east and the orchards in Aaronshill Wood to the north-east. By the 1890s (OS 2nd edition), East Park itself was an orchard, with a strip of mixed, deciduous woodland in its centre. By the mid 20th century it was for growing arable crops.

Today it is mostly under tarmac, having served as a car park for the leisure park, and contains a large, modern barn recently used for recreational purposes. To the north of the barn there is still an area of parkland which is fenced off and used to graze horses. The central strip of woodland remains. It includes copper beech, sycamore, silver birch and Douglas fir, along with some Victoria plum trees, and a dense understorey of hawthorn and broom. Rubbish and debris have been dumped along the north edge of the woodland in recent years.

Crossford Park

In the 1850s, as the OS 1st edition shows, Crossford Park was a sub-triangular enclosed orchard extending south-west from the Lanark road on the west bank of the River Clyde, opposite Holm Park. It formed part of the estate's Davingill Wood. In the 1890s the OS depicted it as the same area and still under orchard, but it appears more diffusely planted.

It was gifted by the Grahams to the village of Crossford and opened as a public park in May 1930. The trees were cleared, paths were laid and flowerbeds were planted. The ground in the park rises steeply to the south-west. It is bordered in part by mature trees, including beech, oak and sycamore, and in spring there are clumps of daffodils on the lower part. On the higher ground is a semi-subterranean brick chamber. According to local informants, this was built to collect rainwater which was piped across the river and into a holding tank for the use of Carfin House. It seems more likely, however, that it was used to water the orchard in dry periods.

6.5 Policy woodland

Big Wood

Big Wood, which lies to the south-east of East and North Parks, was established as an area of mixed woodland between 1816 and 1859, according to the map evidence. By 1897, a much larger area had been planted with conifers dominating. James Graham reportedly sold timber from his conifer plantation in 1915. By the mid 20th century the area is shown as mixed woodland again.

Only a triangular portion of its north-west extent remains today. It covers steep ground and is difficult to penetrate, but sycamore, beech, ash, silver birch, Douglas fir, elder and the occasional oak are visible, along with rhododendron and brambles. The woodland is in poor condition, with many mature trees crushed or damaged, many self-sown trees and evidence of animal burrowing.

Aaronshill Wood (Illus 17, 26)

A core area of woodland is shown here on the south-west facing valley slope in 1816. By the 1850s, the 1st edition OS map shows Aaronshill Wood extended along the sloping ground between North and East Parks to join Big Wood, and this eastern section contained several enclosed orchards. The woodland would have sheltered the area of the house and stables from north winds. By the 1890s, the eastern section had been entirely given over to a large orchard.

The latter is now an area of neglected woodland, self-sown trees and mature trees (sycamore, elder, beech, ash, silver birch and oak) covered in ivy and honeysuckle. Some fruit trees survive along the edge of North Park, including apple, plum and wild cherry (gean), and there are several specimen trees, including monkey puzzle, close to the Walled Garden. No paths are evident, but a large area planted with daffodils is visible to the west of North Park in spring.

6.6 Pleasure walks

Riverside Walk (Illus 29)

A pleasure walk along the riverbank was established before 1896, as it first appears on the 2nd edition OS map. It now forms part of the Clyde Walkway and is surfaced with hard core. It is bordered on both sides by mature specimen trees, including oak, Scots pine, beech, Corsican pine, lime, Norway spruce, laurel and rhododendron. The path runs past Carfin Footbridge, where a low gate leads towards the site of the house. Many of the trees along the path bear numbered metal tags which are growing into the surface of the trunks, indicating a tree survey was carried out in recent decades; many of the trees are decayed and neglected. The path is under constant threat from water damage and erosion. Some attempts have been made to shore up various sections from being undermined by the river.



Illus 13: The west entrance to Walled Garden, near the head of North Drive.



Illus 14: The Walled Garden, looking towards the Courtyard Stables and the Wellingtonia at the site of Carfin House.



Illus 15: Interior of the Walled Garden, with stone-built terraces on which stand disused wooden shelters and fences for the former petting zoo.



Illus 16: Interior of the Courtyard Stables, showing north-facing wall with reconstructed archways under the modern glass and steel canopy.



Illus 17: Courtyard Stables, with the modern hotel complex built against the original façade and Aaronshill Wood in the background.



Illus 18: North Drive.



Illus 19: Forestry Road.



Illus 20: Carfin Lodge.



Illus 21: Carfin Footbridge.



Illus 22: Holm Park, looking north-west towards modern housing.



Illus 23: North Park, with an old apple tree remaining from the orchards.



Illus 24: East Park (from the west).



Illus 25: North Park and Upper Lodge, showing 'Springwell'.



Illus 26: Aaronshill Wood looking west towards the Folly (to the left).



Illus 27: An area of woodland in East Park, looking east.



Illus 29: Riverside Walk with Clyde Walkway sign.



Illus 30: The Folly with its castellated parapet and keyhole windows.

7.0 Assessment of significance

7.1 The concept of significance

In the context of national policy, it is necessary to identify and understand the cultural significance of an aspect of the historic environment before its national importance can be considered. The concept of cultural significance, which is now widely accepted, was introduced in policy statements including the *Burra Charter* (2013). Assessment of significance is designed to help establish why a place or feature is considered to be important and why it is valued. It can be a subjective exercise – reflecting the moment in history when it is written and the state of knowledge about the site at that time. This means that the assessment of significance has the potential to change as knowledge and understanding of the site increase, as ideas and values change or as a result of alterations to the place or feature.

In order to be considered to be of national importance and therefore inscribed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, designed landscapes must have a particular cultural significance - artistic, archaeological, historic, traditional, aesthetic, scientific and social - for past, present or future generations (Historic Environment Scotland *Policy Statement*, June 2016).

The cultural significance of a designed landscape rests on three types of characteristics, as set out in the *HES Policy Statement* (2016).

1. **Intrinsic** - those inherent in the landscape and/or its constituent parts, including:
 - its condition
 - its research potential
 - the length and legibility of its apparent developmental sequence
 - its original or subsequent functions

2. **Contextual** - those relating to its place in the wider landscape or body of existing knowledge, including:
 - the rarity of the designed landscape or any part of it, assessed against its regional and national context
 - its relationship to other, similar landscapes in the vicinity
 - the relationship of the designed landscape and its constituent parts to the wider landscape setting

3. **Associative** - the historic, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the designed landscape, and vice versa, including:
 - its aesthetic attributes
 - its significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used it, or their descendants
 - its associations with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events

The grading of significance here is based on a ranking system developed from Kerr (2013) for conservation plans. It grades the **quality** of the landscape's intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristics; based on the grading of quality, it assesses cultural significance according to a **range**, as set out below.

Quality:	Outstanding	Range:	International
	High		National (Scotland)
	Some		Regional
	Little		Local

An assessment of local cultural significance does not mean that a designed landscape or its constituent parts are not worth conserving; indeed, sound conservation and management practices can enhance their significance.

7.2 The significance of the designed landscape at Carfin

Intrinsic value

Many of the components at Carfin retain some intrinsic value, including the Walled Garden, Carfin Footbridge, the drives, parts of Holm and North Parks, the areas of policy woodland and the Riverside Walk. All of these have been degraded through neglect or modification. The Courtyard Stables have little

intrinsic value due to the extent of alteration they have undergone. East Park and the former Pleasure Gardens retain no intrinsic value. On the whole, the results of piecemeal, insensitive and ill-informed development mean the estate retains little intrinsic value. While its intrinsic value could be enhanced by restoration works, these would have to be fairly extensive.

Contextual value

Carfin is closely linked to this key crossing point over the River Clyde and, with other neighbouring designed landscapes in the area, contributes to the landscape character of this section of the Clyde Valley. It is thus considered to have some contextual value.

Associative value

Carfin has historical associations, with the Nisbet and Graham families, to the port wine trade and to the contributions of late 19th- to early 20th-century mercantile wealth to shaping the landscape of the Clyde Valley. It is thus considered to have some associative value.

Cultural significance

Based on the assessment of its intrinsic, contextual and associative value, Carfin is considered to have local significance.

8.0 Sources consulted

8.1 Historic maps

<i>Cartographer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Sheet</i>
Timothy Pont	1593-96	Glasgow and the county of Lanark	
General William Roy	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland (©British Library)	
William Forrest	1816	The county of Lanark from actual survey	
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Source: <http://maps.nls.uk>

8.2 Other sources

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<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/>

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Facebook Group: Lost Houses of the Clyde Valley

Books, articles and grey literature

Historic Environment Scotland 2016 *Policy Statement*. (<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>)

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