

# The Development of the Gardens and Designed Landscape at WESTQUARTER, STIRLINGSHIRE



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GARDENS

Exploring our hidden gardens and forgotten landscapes



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Westquarter, Stirlingshire

NGR: NS 91246 78793

Report on the development of the designed landscape

on behalf of

Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

Registered Charity No SC034618

Cover Plate: Pen and ink sketch by J S Fleming of the old mansion 'Westquarter' (1908).

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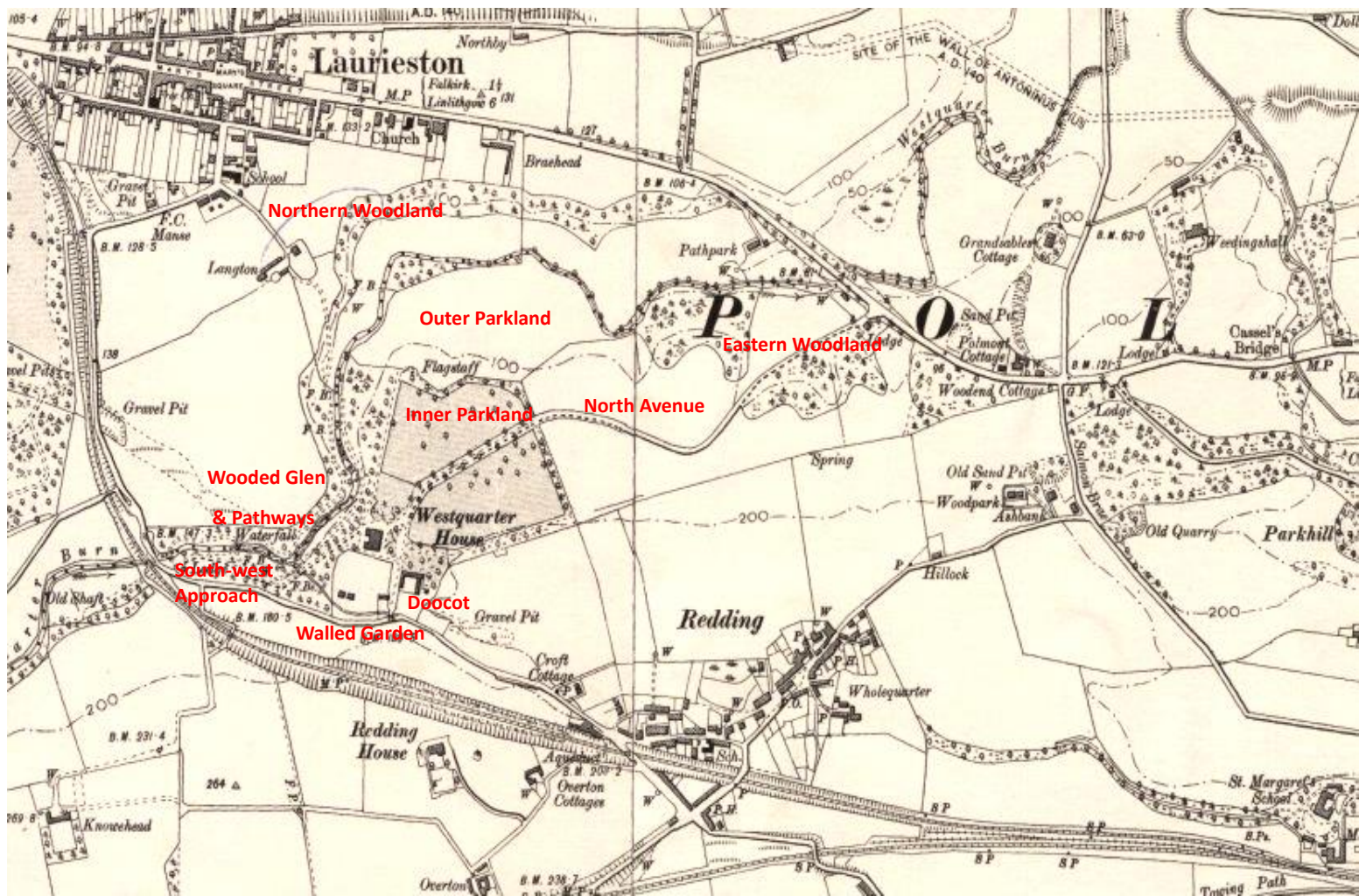
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Illus 1: The Westquarter estate as shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 6 inch map (Stirlingshire Sheets XXX.NE and XXXI.NW), 1899, with components identified marked in red (map reproduced from <http://www.maps.nls.uk>).

## 1.0 Introduction to Glorious Gardens

Glorious Gardens was a two-year pilot project (2015-17) 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 (HES), studied properties in the Falkirk local authority area while another strand, 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.

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 was written by Fiona Gordon and Marion Shawcross, 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 Westquarter

The estate of Westquarter is situated in the Parishes of Grangemouth and Falkirk, in the County of Stirling, about a mile and a half east of Falkirk, midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow. To the west of the estate, the Westquarter Burn runs north through a picturesque, wooded glen which was integrated into the designed landscape surrounding the original 17th-century house. The burn then runs in an eastwardly direction through a wider valley bottom. The land rises gently in the east towards Redding and to the south towards Overton. Beyond the Westquarter Burn to the north and west is a wooded scarp.

The original house was demolished in 1883 and a Victorian baronial style mansion, Westquarter House (NS 91246 78793), was erected on the site. At the beginning of the 20th century, the estate extended to 449 acres of which three quarters was arable, the rest consisting of plantations and the built environment (roads, houses, etc).

Stirling County Council bought the estate in 1934 and demolished Westquarter House in 1936 to make way for the building of a new village. The model village of Westquarter (NS 9150 7893), designed by John A W Grant in the Arts and Crafts style, was built between 1935 and 1938 to house miners and their families who lived in appalling conditions in Standburn. A lectern-style doocot (NS 9150 7893), believed to date from the 18th century, and some sections of the Walled Garden (NS 9122 7873) are the most significant structures that remain of the original Westquarter estate. The glen is now a public amenity, providing picturesque walks along the banks of the burn, which has remained largely unchanged since the 17th century.

Name	Designation	Grade	ID	Web link
Dovecot, Dovecot Road, Westquarter	Listed building	A	LB8315	<a href="http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB8315">http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB8315</a>

## 3.0 Methods

The study followed the project methodology, as detailed in the Glorious Gardens Method Statement (see project archive, held at the National Monuments Record of Scotland 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 February 2017 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 Historical Environment (NRHE) 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

Westquarter appears 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 The East Central Lowlands (Stirling, Falkirk & Kilsyth) (1593-96).



'WsQuarter' is located to the south-east of the Calendar Castle estate, hemmed in by Redding to the south-east and Langtoun to the north. It is shown here as a tower house with two wings. There may be woodland to the east but the markings are hard to discern. To the north is Westquarter Burn, which runs in an easterly direction towards the Firth of Forth.

Illus 3: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) (©British Library) .



Westquarter now appears south of the Callindar Castle estate and the Westquarter Burn, and to the west of Hallglen and Redding. Nothing more than a building, sited on agricultural land, is marked. The location of Westquarter on Pont's map more accurately reflects the true position.

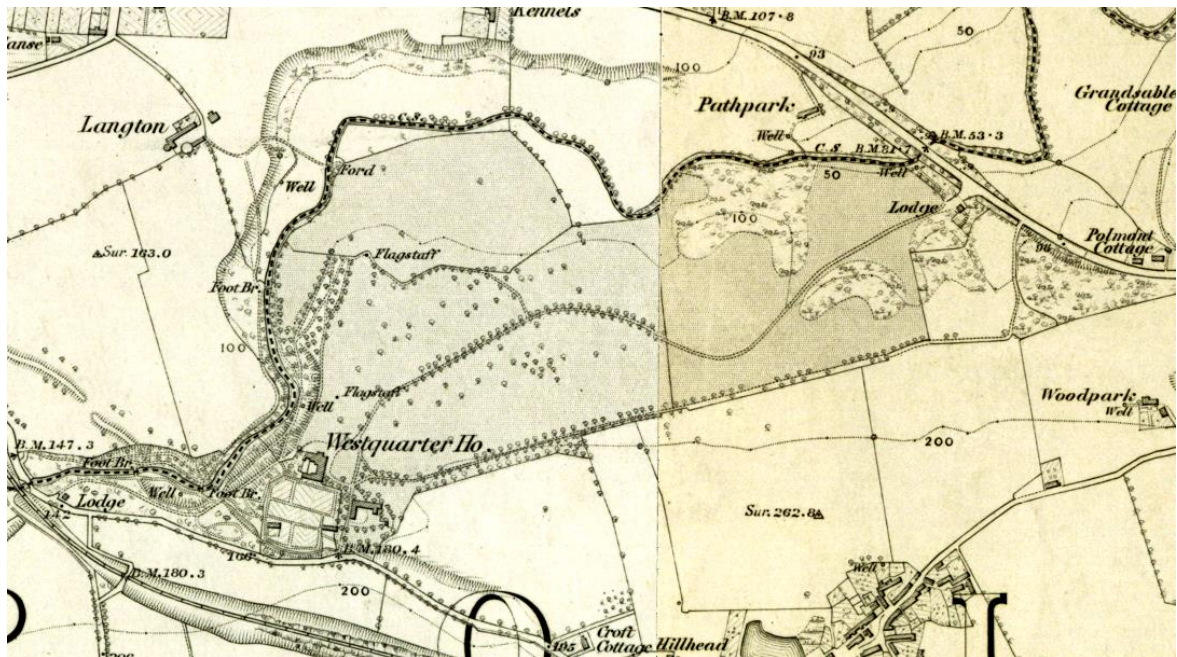
Illus 4: Grassom's To the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Stirling... (1817)



'W. Quarter House' now appears between Langton to the north-west and Redding to the south-east, north of the road joining the two villages. The land rises in the south towards the village of Overton and in the east towards Redding. The estate is heavily wooded to the north of the house and bordered to the north and west by Westquarter Burn, which runs NNE and then east through a steeply-sided wooded glen.

There are four approaches to the house. Two short drives lead off the Redding-Falkirk road, one from the south and the other from the south-west. Two long drives lead off the Polmont-Falkirk road to the north-east, one being the straight south avenue and the other the more meandering north avenue. These two avenues are joined by a cross drive running north-east/south-west. To the south-east of the house are two buildings on opposite sides of the southern approach road.

Illus 5: Ordnance Survey six-inch (1st edition), Stirlingshire Sheet XXX and Sheet XXXI. Surveyed 1858-60, published 1845-5.



Extensive developments had taken place at Westquarter by the mid 19th century. To the north of the U-shaped house, with a west facing courtyard, is parkland, bounded in the north and west by the Westquarter Burn. The inner parkland is more heavily dotted with trees than the outer parkland: within the latter, towards the east, are four irregularly shaped areas, namely the eastern woodland. Beyond the burn to the north is farmland hemmed in by the northern woodland, which is located along a scarp. The south avenue, which runs from the house in a north-easterly direction towards Polmont, as seen on Grassom's map, separates the parkland from the farmland. The north avenue, bordered by trees along half its length, terminates at a lodge on the Polmont-Falkirk road: it now appears to be one of the main access roads to the house. The road that previously joined these two avenues at right angles no longer exists.

To the south of the house there is now a square walled garden, divided into five areas of ornamental garden separated by paths, with a greenhouse in the garden to the south-west. One of the buildings to the south-east of the house still remains within the walled garden: this is perhaps a gardener's cottage. The other building, which was across the road, has gone, but an L-shaped building, most probably stables and offices, now stands to the north of where that building once stood. To the south-east of the stables/offices is a small, square building, most probably the doocot. The stables/office block and the doocot are surrounded by trees to the north, east and south, with an access road to the house running

past to the west.

To the west of the house is a wooded glen through which the Westquarter Burn runs. The meandering paths through deciduous woods have probably been designed with leisure in mind: three footbridges cross the burn. There is another lodge at the south-west entrance to the estate; the road follows the line of the top of the glen towards the house. The southern approach also runs from the Redding-Falkirk road to the house, passing between the walled garden and the stable/office block. Four wells are shown along the glen. To the south of the estate, the Stirlingshire Midland Junction Railway has been introduced into the landscape (c. 1850) running roughly east/west.

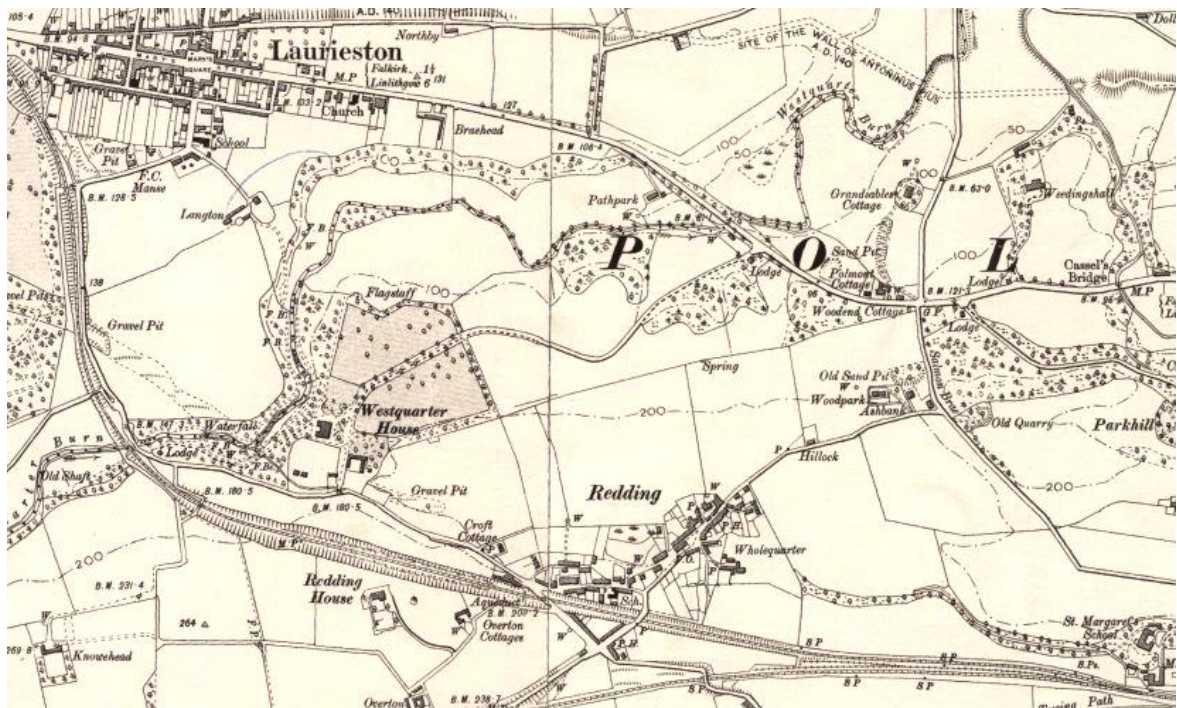
Illus 6: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (1st edition), Stirlingshire Sheet XXX.8 (Polmont) 25 inch (1st Edition) & XXXI.5 (Polmont). Surveyed 1860, published 1860-65.



Although there is very little difference between this and the OS six-inch 1st edition map, more detail is shown on the 25-inch map. The house appears to have had a number of extensions but maintains its west facing courtyard. In the walled garden trees, perhaps fruit, border some of the paths. The green/glasshouse to the south-east appears as two semi-detached buildings with a wall enclosing an area immediately to the south. There is also a wall running south from the south-east corner of the gardener's cottage, effectively separating it from the rest of the walled garden. There is a long, rectangular outbuilding adjacent to the south-east corner of the house; it is unclear as to whether or not it is within the walled garden. A stream is shown running along the southern boundary of the walled garden and then flowing west towards the glen. The trees in the eastern woodland and wooded glen appear to be

both deciduous and coniferous.

Illus 7: Ordnance Survey six-inch (2nd edition), Stirlingshire Sheet XXX.NE and Stirlingshire Sheet XXXI.NW. Revised 1896, published 1899.



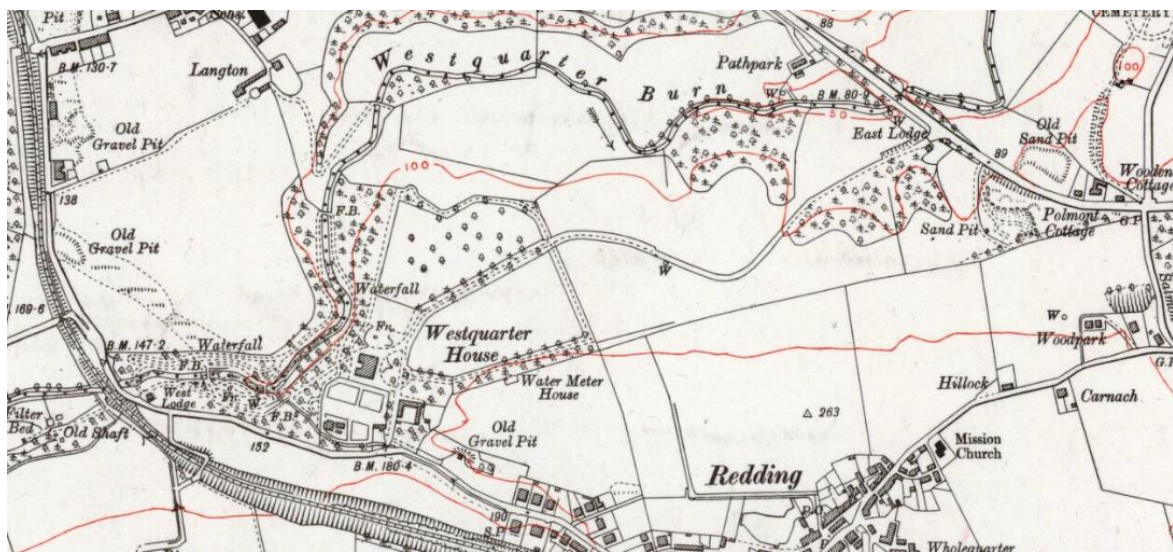
On the 2nd edition OS map, published some 30 years later, the house has changed shape: it is practically square with a very small courtyard facing west. The original 17th-century house was demolished in 1883/84 and a new house built on the same site. Some of the paths through the woods have gone, but a roughly semi-circular wooded area has appeared immediately east of the house; there are steps leading from the house to the road, flanked by curved walls. There are now footbridges crossing the burn and two of the original four wells remain. A waterfall is marked near a footbridge at the southern end of the

glen.

The inner parkland to the north and north-east of the house has been surrounded by a shelter belt of deciduous trees. The outer parkland appears now to be farmland. The elongated building to the south-east of the house has gone. The stable/office block has a new east wing, and the courtyard is enclosed by the addition of a wall to the south, leaving access at the south-west corner. The trees to the south are no longer there.

The paths and vegetation are not depicted in the walled garden, but the buildings within it remain. Access to the house now appears to be from the southern approach road, via the stable/office block and from the east lodge on the Polmont-Falkirk road, along the north avenue. The south-western approach appears to have been downgraded to a path and the southern avenue no longer exists, although the remaining trees form part of the shelter belt mentioned above. A gravel pit is shown to the east of the walled garden, beyond the stable/office block. The woodland on the scarp to the north of Westquarter Burn has been extended eastwards to the Polmont-Falkirk Road.

Illus 8: Ordnance Survey six-inch (3rd edition), Stirlingshire Sheet nXXX.NE (includes Falkirk and Grangemouth). Revised 1914, published 1921.

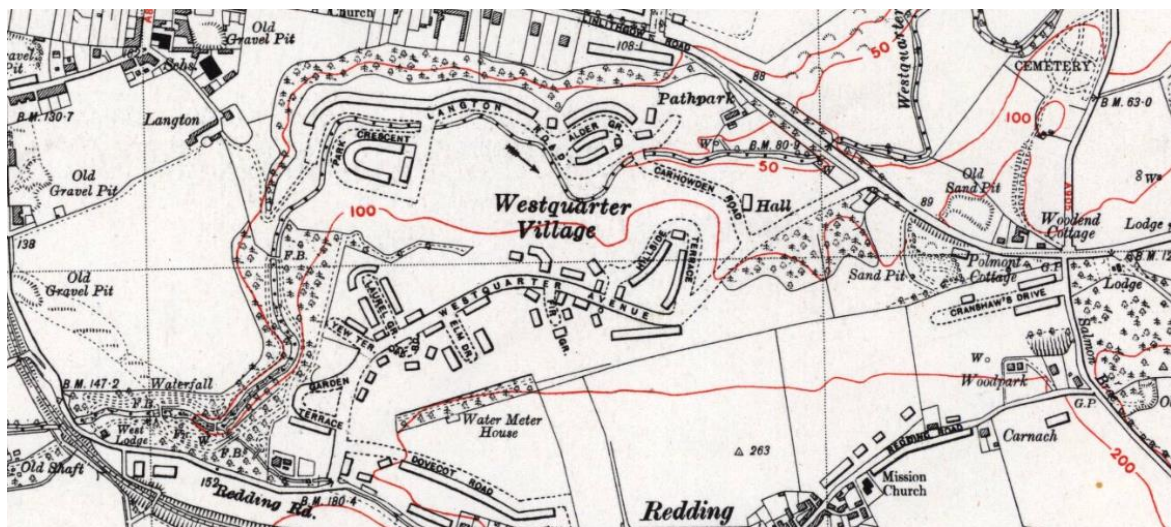


The 1914 revision shows that a few changes have occurred since the 1890s. Although the inner parkland still exists, trees no longer completely surround it, and only the more northerly part contains trees. Circular walks have been created on the north side of the wooded glen, near the west lodge. To the north of the house there is now a second waterfall. Only two footbridges remain. Immediately north of the

house is a fountain, and a vista looking northwards across parkland has been created.

The walled garden has been divided into four walled areas, two side by side to the north and two likewise to the south, with open space in the middle. The south-west compartment contains three green/glasshouses. To the south-east the walled-off area containing the gardener's cottage appears to have been extended at the south-east corner. A water meter house is sited to the north-east of the stable/office block; this suggests that the house now has mains water. Near the east lodge the two most southern parts of the eastern woodland have now merged. Ribbon development has occurred along the Redding-Falkirk road in the direction of Westquarter.

Illus 9: Ordnance Survey six-inch (4th edition), Stirlingshire Sheet nXXX.NE (includes Falkirk Grangemouth). Revision date unknown, published 1947.

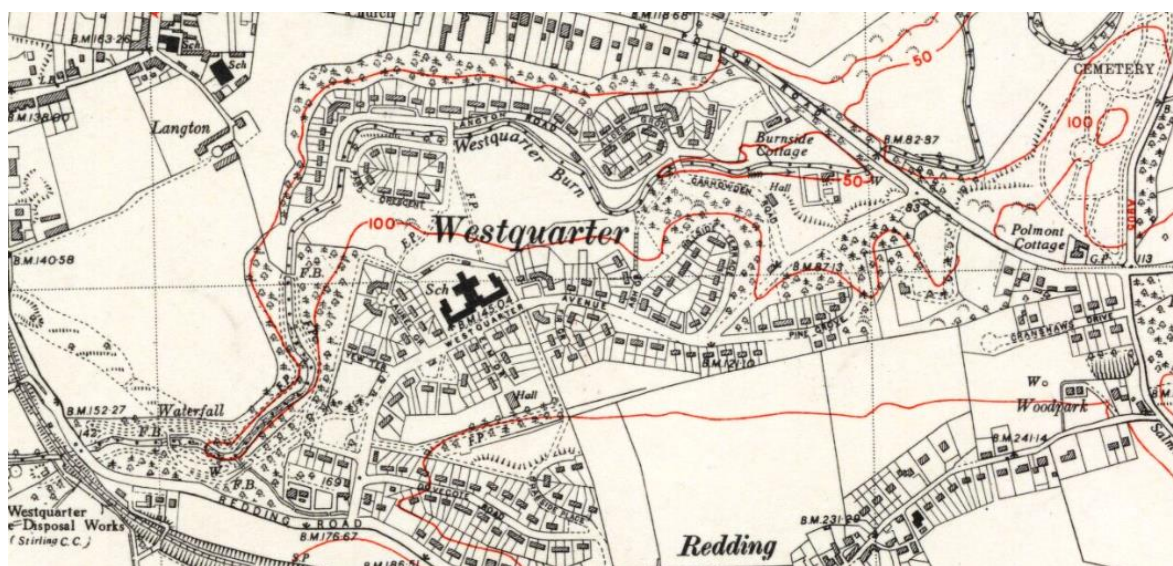


By the 1940s, the original estate of Westquarter no longer exists. In its place is the village of Westquarter, built in the 1930s. There are remnants of the shelter belt that once surrounded the parkland to the north and south. One waterfall is now depicted in the wooded glen, and the doocot is shown at the west end of Dovecot Road. Most of the wall surrounding the walled garden remains, apart from a small section on the north where a row of houses has been built. The two walled compartments to the south are still shown, and the south-westerly compartment now contains three glass/greenhouses, but the gardener's cottage and wall have disappeared.

The house formerly stood in what is now Garden Terrace. North Avenue and the Southern Approach have now joined and become Westquarter Avenue, the main access into the new housing estate, connecting with Redding Road in the south and Linlithgow Road to the north. Development has largely

been along this road, as well as on the farmland between Westquarter Burn and the woods to the north. The East Lodge has gone.

Illus 10: Ordnance Survey six-inch (5th edition), Stirlingshire Sheet XXX.NE (includes Falkirk). Revised 1946, published 1951.



The 6th edition OS map shows considerable development within the village, with a school having been built on what was originally the inner parkland. Westquarter Avenue continues to be the main access route with roads, including cul-de-sacs and loops, leading off it. There has been replanting of the eastern woodland along Carhowden Road. The houses in the north part of the walled garden are separated from the southern compartments by a belt of trees. The Gardener's Cottage and wall have reappeared on this map; there is also now a small building immediately to the north of the Gardener's Cottage. The West Lodge has gone.

## 4.2 Aerial Photographs

In Illustration 11, the model village of Westquarter was barely 10 years old: practically all the roads and houses for the new estate appear to have been built by this time. There were three main areas of development: between the scarp to the north and the Westquarter Burn; within the former parkland;



## 5.0 Timeline for the Westquarter Designed Landscape

- 15th-16th centuries      The land belonged to a branch of the Livingston family from the early 15th century. The name Westquarter first appears in the mid C16, and refers to the west part of the divided lands of Redding. The estate stayed almost continuously in the ownership of the Livingstons until the 20th century.
- In 1560s Alexander Lewyngstoun was the first to be identified 'of Westquarter' (Reid 1997). This branch of the family was closely related to the Livingstons of Callendar. The succession passed through the male line to William, two Roberts, another Alexander and James.
- 17th century            In 1647 the estate belonged to Sir William Livingston. He had a substantial house built, possibly incorporating parts of the tower house depicted by Pont. It was described as an 'extensive, plain, old seventeenth century house' (Gillespie 1879). It stood beside the Westquarter Burn in the tree-lined glen. The heraldic panel on the doocot refers to Sir William and his wife, although the doocot is from a later period (Leask 1986). The stone-built doocot was a lectern design with a string course, with scalloped and crow stepped parapets. The Livingstone coat of arms was placed above the doorway.
- It would be reasonable to assume that some attention was also paid to the garden when the new house was built, but there is little indication of a designed landscape on General Roy's mid 18th-century map.
- Sir William died without children, and the estate passed in 1701 to a young relative, James, whose debts led to his imprisonment. James was a supporter of William of Orange during an era when wealthy landowners paid a lot of interest in their gardens.
- 1724                    In order to escape from the Tolbooth, James Livingstone sold Westquarter to one William Drummond. A description of the mansion and grounds accompanied the Notice of Sale in the *Caledonian Mercury* in August 1724, which described Westquarter thus:
- the Estate of WESTQUARTER, of yearly Rent, the Sum of L 1000 in Money; 21 Bolls, 3 Firlots Meal and 20 Bolls, 3 Firlots Bear; with a Manor-place of 30 Fire-rooms, most of them finished and painted having 31 Acres of inclos'd Ground about it, with Stone and Lime Dykes, a Dove cot and Office-houses, and beautified with much old Planting and a rookery; It hath a good Coal and Free-stone Quarrey, lying in the Shire of Stirling with in 2 Miles of Falkirk.
- Within ten years William Drummond sold the estate to Lord Napier. Part of a letter survives from Lady Hopetoun, explaining this sale to Ld Findlater:

Ld Napier thinks of buying West Quarter from Mr Drummond in view of his wife's poor health, Mr Drummond offering them the house and estate, furnished as it stands except for some books and a few family pictures. They have all visited it: The House is rather too large so that they can want no conveniency of that kind, he has made several alterations of Stairs Doors and Windows, and besides the Stair Case which you have heard much of, and is indeed very handsome he has new finish'd a Dining Room, stone Parlour, and lay'd a floor in the Drawing Room, besides the Kitchen and new Doors, windows and other little reparations through the house. All the new work is not only good and substantial but very nice. The rest of the finishing is old fashion'd and the Windows but indifferent however all very habitable and requiring nothing to be done in hast. The furniture is not fine but clean and whole and a great deal of it new, in a word many good useful things. Without Doors there seems little wanting but Bake house and Brew house which he has not. He has been at a good deal of expense in making a little Garden and several Walks. And has inclosed with a good stone and Lime wall as they reckon above thirty acres in whole with some divisions. The rest of the ground lys very well for inclosing and there are several little pieces round which they say may got, besides #100 of rent joining which is now to sell.'

The rest of the letter has not survived.

1769

In 1769, Captain William Livingston instigated legal proceedings for unlawful possession against Lord Napier; the action was successful and Westquarter was restored to the Livingstons. A nephew, Alexander Livingston, succeeded in 1770, followed later by his son, Sir Thomas Livingstone.

A letter survives which gives a flavour of the time. It was written by a Mr Wardrope from Westquarter to William Forbes of Callendar on 1 October 1796:

I beg leave to request you will be so obliging as order your Gardiner to give for your Neighbour Sir Thomas Livingstone a few plants of Strawberries, Artichokes, and Raspberries, which are generally to spare this season - We will also in a short time request further a few cuttings of Gooseberry and Currant bushes. I hope you will excuse this freedom on behalf of Sir Thomas whose garden requires to be stocked anew, I am yours with much respect, your most obedient servant James Wardrop.

We do not have a reply nor any indication of whether any plants were given, but the letter shows there was a reasonable expectation that plants would be shared (Falkirk Community Archive, GD 171/589/22).

1853 Prior to his death in 1853 Thomas Livingston combined a number of properties, enlarging and consolidating the estate.

Sir Bernard Burke, son of the original author of Burke's peerage, describes the setting and landscape of Westquarter in his 1860 work *Vicissitudes of Families*:

The garden, though perhaps nothing beyond ordinary in its floral character, possesses several interesting memorials of the 'buried past'; and the ground itself - part of a fine esker, hereafter to be noted - is somewhat artistically laid out. A verdant knoll, crowned with a tree-shaded summer-seat, runs along its centre from east to west, and which was proudly called 'my quarter deck' by the late Sir Thomas Livingstone, as he, Jack-like, strutted from stern to stem of the cool and close-shaven sward. Built into the garden wall, as we have said, are various historical and family stones.

In his 1868 book *Round about Falkirk*, Robert Gillespie commended Westquarter, saying the estate was 'by far the most picturesque of the local pleasure grounds.' He continued:

But the great charm of Westquarter is its lovely glen, situated immediately west of the garden. The chief cascades are 'The Lanton Linn' and 'the Lady's Linn'; and although these falls but rarely display themselves with that foaming fury common to the 'torture-riven chasm', there is still an impressive grandeur in the leap of the brawling burn over the rifted rocks, and the hollow rumble of its waters in the raving gorge. Spanning the swirling stream at scenic points which only such an eye as Mr Clelland's could have selected, are a couple of rustic bridges constructed of natural larch, minus the bark; and from these elevated platforms a glorious view is got of the thickly-wooded dell and its linns of surpassing beauty. Here, too, in the very heart of brushwood and brackens, are a splendid assortment of ferns (Gillespie 1868, 172).

The steep and rugged banks of the glen led Gillespie to recall the first battle of Falkirk in 1298, where the Westquarter ravine checked the advances of the English cavalry. On the winding footpath that overlooks the glen there is a good view of the escarpment which extends from Callendar in the east to Gilston in the west. Gillespie admits not knowing whether the topography was natural or a 'work of man'.

Gillespie was enthralled by the landscape but less so by the old Westquarter House: 'The old mansion is an exceedingly rude piece of architecture, and was not improved in appearance by its plebeian coat of faded yellow' (ibid, 171).

1883-1909 In 1883 the owner, Thomas Fenton Livingstone, who probably shared Gillespie's view of the house, demolished the old mansion to make way for a new one. It was designed in the

baronial Scots style by the architect John Scotland of Airdrie and completed in 1887.

John Reid, writing in *Calatria*, the Journal of the Falkirk Local History Society, described the appearance of the new mansion as a 'weak Scottish Baronial imitation' (Reid 1997).

However, he added that 'the general character of the buildings was still evident, until 1936, in the form of the stable block, which was of similar design to the house.'

Early 20th century	The last Livingstone to own the property, John Fenton Livingstone, inherited it in 1890 and his widow sold the estate in 1909. The stable block and the new mansion were both demolished in 1936.
1910	<p>The estate was bought by James Nimmo, a Glasgow coal merchant whose family firm had taken over local coal seams. At this time there were 30 collieries worked by 300 men. Less than five years later there were 50 collieries employing 3000 men.</p> <p>In 1910 there was a grand occasion when the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton visited Westquarter. Many local people turned out for the celebration and there were a lot of entertainments.</p> <p>James Nimmo died in 1912 and his son Adrian inherited the estate. He did not live in the mansion and leased the estate out. However, the park remained open to the public at weekends in the summer, and celebrations and events were held there.</p> <p>In 1923 there was a pit disaster caused by an inrush of water to the main seam at Redding. Many men were trapped for days in flooded tunnels. Some men were rescued but 40 died. The rescue was hampered by black damp, roof falls and heavy rain. The inquiry found there had been serious miscalculations with inadequate response to the risks inherent in the geological conditions.</p> <p>The estate was put up for sale in 1934 but there were no prospective buyers. Adrian Nimmo wanted to get rid of the estate and initially the council would not accept it, even as a gift. An enquiry was held into the conditions of the nearby mining community in Standburn. The report, published in 1934 emphasised the unhealthy conditions in which miners and their families lived. The council decided to acquire the land in order to allow them to re-house people in newly built houses.</p> <p>This led to 'the destruction of one of the best loved and most picturesque beauty spots in the Eastern District of Stirlingshire' (ibid, 39).</p>
1934-present	The beginning of the C20 saw increasing support for better standards for workers' houses. The traditional tenement was seen to be associated with overcrowding and insanitary conditions. Successive Housing and Town Planning Acts gave practical direction, including subsidies to public and charitable organisations to build good quality housing. The garden

city movement was gathering support in England, and Patrick Geddes, an innovative thinker and influential figure in Scotland, was an advocate. Two storey cottages with gardens, grouped together in relative low density were viewed as ideal. The economic depression in the late 1920s and 30s led to compromise.

One of the important architects associated with garden cottage style housing in Scotland was John A W Grant. In 1936 he won the competition from Stirlingshire County Council to design a new model village at Westquarter. It was to consist of 450 semi-detached cottages on a 120-acre site, with playing fields, shops, village green, recreation hall, school and child welfare clinic. The design won a Saltire Society Award in 1938. The houses were built first, and the school and clinic were built in 1944. The other facilities were not provided. The school was said at the time to be the most modern primary school in Scotland.

The three and four bedroomed houses were spacious, and all had kitchens, bathrooms and toilets. They had gardens front and back which were screened from the road by walls with wrought iron gates and divided from their neighbours by laurel hedges. The layout of the streets followed the contours of the gradient and the burn. The estate was entered by the original roads. The setting of the houses in the glen looked beautiful and was said by David Leask to be known as "Wonderland" (Leask, *ibid*).

There was hostility to the scheme from the neighbouring villages because of the apparent opulence, even though the planned amenities were a long time coming or were never built. In 1939 a man was murdered there, and the village's reputation deteriorated. There was vandalism and newly planted trees were torn down for firewood. The 'valley' area was prone to flooding and in both 1944 and 1967 there was a child drowned in the burn. The estate was unpopular within the town of Falkirk; in the 1960s and 70s Westquarter was still thought of as a problem estate.

The houses were refurbished in the 1970s, including modernising the kitchens and bathrooms. In 1984 money was identified to tidy and restore the external environment and landscape. Writing at the start of the 21st century Jaques writes

'.. the scheme proves how successful a simple vocabulary of design elements can be when rigorously adhered to'. (Jaques, 2000)

The Falkirk Council commissioned a report from LUC (Land Use Consultants) to assist with their strategy for managing their Forestry and Woodland areas. Westquarter gets a brief but succinct mention

'.. To the east of Falkirk, Westquarter, Polmont and Redding are characterised by 20th century development woven into a landscape structure created by a series of wooded riparian corridors, relict designed landscapes and amenity planting'. (2015)

<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/images/corporate/pdf/falkirk-forestry-and-woodland->

## 6.0 Components of the Designed Landscape

The following designed landscape components still exist at Westquarter. Illus 1 shows their locations.

Category	Name
Gardens	Walled Garden
Drives & approaches	North Avenue South Avenue South-west Approach Southern Approach
Policy parkland	Outer Parkland Inner Parkland
Policy woodland	Wooded Glen Eastern Woodland Northern Woodland
Pleasure walks/drives	Wooded Glen Pathways
Agricultural & industrial features	Doocot

This section summarises the historical development of each component and describes its current character and condition.

### 6.1 Gardens

#### Walled Garden (Illus 27, 32)

The Walled Garden, which extended to about two acres, appears for the first time on the 1st edition OS map (1864/65). It was located immediately to the south of the house, on a north facing slope that then levelled off towards the south. At this point in time it had five compartments containing ornamental gardens, one of which also held a glass/greenhouse, and another area to the east with what was most likely the gardener's cottage. The compartments were separated by paths. The 1st edition 25-inch OS map shows trees lining many of the paths as well as a walled area next to and south of the glass/greenhouse in the south-west compartment.

Sir Bernard Burke in 1860 described the garden as 'floral, artistically laid out', with a grassy knoll running east to west through the middle and a tree-shaded seat at its centre. Westquarter was described by

Robert Gillespie in 1868 as 'by far the most picturesque of the local pleasure grounds'. Some 30 years later, the 2nd edition six-inch OS map showed only the perimeter wall, two buildings in the south-west compartment and the gardener's cottage with a wall running off to the south, effectively separating this area from the rest of the garden. By the 3rd edition OS map there were four isolated walled compartments, two to the north and two to the south, as well as the walled off area containing the gardener's cottage to the south-east. The walled area to the south-west now contained three separate glass/greenhouses. By the 4th edition (1947), houses had been built in the north section, though most of the walls remained intact. The two walled compartments to the south remained, complete with the green/glasshouses in the south-westerly one, and the gardener's cottage and wall still existed (as they appear on the 5th edition OS map of a few years later). The houses and gardens to the north were separated from the walled compartments to the south by a belt of trees, and there was a small building to the north of the gardener's cottage.

Today, fragments of the perimeter wall survive at the eastern corners. There is a low wall, less than a metre high, along the front of some mid 20th-century houses which were built inside the garden facing northwards. Probably part of the perimeter wall, it is punctuated by gates leading into the houses' front gardens and has been replaced, patched or shored up in various places, but on the north-west corner it rises to c 3 m as it turns through 90 degrees. The land slopes downwards from the walled garden towards the footprint of the old mansion, now a flat patch of hard core which is clearly not the remains of the old house but of some later building which has more recently been pulled down. Within the rest of the walled garden, between the row of houses and the road, there is now a private care home, with no remnants or features of the original garden apparent.

A set of eight worn stone steps leads from the site of the house towards the main south/north approach, now Westquarter Avenue. They bisect an arc of trees that separate the site of the house from the road; half are beech and the other half mature pines. Near the site of the old mansion are two healthy araucaria trees, which would have stood beside the lawn in front of it. Original low stone walls edge the pavements on both sides of Westquarter Avenue from the site of the house at the junction with the B805.

## 6.2 Drives & approaches

### **North Avenue & South-west Approach (Illus 13, 26 and 34)**

In 1817, according to Grassom's map, the main access points to the house were via a straight, tree-lined avenue coming in from the north-east, known here as the South Avenue, and, also coming in from the north-east, and to the north of the South Avenue, is the more meandering North Avenue. The South-west Approach and another from the south, were much shorter and led to the house from the Redding-Laurieston road. By 1864/65, lodges had been built where the North Avenue and the South-west Approach entered the estate, suggesting that these were now the main access routes. By 1899, the south avenue terminated at the outer edge of the inner parkland. By 1921, the lodges had been labelled East Lodge (Polmont-Falkirk road) and West Lodge (Redding-Laurieston road). By 1947, the North Avenue had become Westquarter Avenue, which now connected the Polmont-Falkirk road (Linlithgow Road) to the Redding-Laurieston road (Redding Road) and subsumed the former approach from the south. The East

Lodge had gone and so had the southern avenue except for some of the trees bordering what had been the inner parkland. West Lodge later disappeared.

Some traces of these historic approaches to the estate survive. There is some parking on Redding Road (B805), allowing pedestrian access at the western side of the estate, but no vehicular access. There are two square stone pillars at the entrance and the original stone walls are buttressed and in good condition. The original, relatively straight and short drive - the South-west Approach - runs eastward along the top of an escarpment directly to the mansion site. Where it opens out at the site there are three rectangular stone gateposts, two either side of the carriageway and one for the side pedestrian gate. Westquarter Avenue, which was laid out in 1936 when the model village was built, is now the key road through the estate. It is possible to travel along it remaining largely unaware of the glen and ravine running a little way to the north and west, because the wooded ground falls away and the semidetached houses and school building screen the view.

### 6.3 Policy parkland

#### Inner Parkland & Outer Parkland (Illus 21-25, 28-30)

Parkland does not appear until the mid 19th century, according to the 1st edition six-inch OS map. The Inner Parkland lay immediately to the north and north-east of the house. To the north it was bordered by a road and an east/west shelter belt, with others on the west and south. Beyond lay the Outer Parkland, which was bordered by the Westquarter Burn to the north and the South Avenue to the south; here the trees were more sparse. By the 2nd and subsequent OS editions, the trees in the Outer Parkland had gone. The Inner Parkland was completely enclosed by trees in the 2nd edition (1899), but only partially so in the 3rd edition (1921). By the 4th edition the Inner Parkland had been replaced by the village of Westquarter. Part of the shelter belt surrounding the Inner Parkland remains today, notably to the north and south-east.

Sir William Burke, in his *Vicissitudes of Families* says of Westquarter House that it is "Situated in a walled park of three hundred acres, diversified with rocky precipices, and undulating banks, clothed with magnificent timber, and uniting the stiff and stately avenues and terraces of former days with the winding approaches of the present, Westquarter is beyond comparison the most picturesque residence in the eastern district of Stirlingshire, and in this respect - so far as regards the natural beauties of the landscapes which it encloses - far surpassing the larger and more ancient place of Callendar."

The model village has two distinct parts, one part in the northern half of the glen and one following the ridge that is now Westquarter Avenue. The houses in the glen fit into the land within a curve in the burn, stand on flat land and have front and back gardens. The glen is surrounded with trees; on the north side the trees grow either side of the burn and to the south they grow on the rise of the escarpment. In the centre is a mowed green within sight of nearly all the houses, with a football pitch and a children's playground. The burn flows out of the curve behind the houses into the eastern edge of the glen where there is an asphalt footpath and a footbridge, as well as a relatively new bridge for traffic going to the houses. Pockets of older trees survive, including Scots pines. There are some recently planted trees on

both sides of the glen as the road goes uphill northwards towards the main road (A803), leaving the estate. The other part of the model village consists of the houses and crescents on either side of Westquarter Avenue; these follow the curve of the road which, to some extent, follows the curve of the river. They all have front and back gardens and back onto open grassland, woodland or parkland.

## 6.4 Policy woodland

### Wooded Glen, Eastern Woodland & Northern Woodland (Illus 14-19, 35)

It is unclear whether or not there were trees surrounding the house in c 1590, when Pont surveyed the area, but a rookery was mentioned in the Notice of Sale in the *Caledonian Mercury*, August 1724. The Woodland Glen was shown north and west of the house on Grassom's map of 1817, as well as to the south of the burn in the northern part of the estate. These areas of woodland along the course of the burn remained relatively constant over the years, appearing as mixed woodland on the 1st edition OS map of 1864/65. Visitors to the estate such as Robert Gillespie (1868) were fulsome in their praise of the trees.

The Eastern Woodland constituted four areas of mixed woodland in the east towards the Polmont-Falkirk road and the Northern Woodland lay along the scarp to the north of the Westquarter Burn. It was not until the 4th edition of the OS map of c 1947 that there was any change: part of the Eastern Woodland adjacent to Westquarter Burn disappeared with the creation of Carhowden Road, though by the 5th edition (1951) it had reappeared. The belt of woodland along the scarp to the north of Westquarter Burn widened and was extended eastwards over the following years.

Today, remnants of these woodlands survive. Immediately on entering the western side of the estate there is an area of woodland with well spaced mature trees, including lime, oak and one notable yew approximately 150 years old, interspersed with recently planted trees. Near the entrance is a small clearing with three picnic benches. The woodland extends into and along the ravine as many trees, mature and young, grow on the banks of the burn. The ravine opens out into the glen where one part of the model village was built in 1936-8. Pockets of mature trees surround the estate, with relatively recently planted trees infilling where necessary.

## 6.5 Pleasure walks

### Wooded Glen Pathways (Illus 14, 15)

From the mid 19th century, as shown on the 1st edition OS map, a network of paths ran along the contours through the parkland west and north of the house, along the glen. Those to the west, where the glen is narrowest, are marked on all subsequent maps. The glen was described by Robert Gillespie (1868) as Westquarter's greatest attribute, with rustic bridges made of larch crossing the burn in a couple of places. The walks in the woodland immediately north of the house had largely disappeared by the 2nd edition OS map of 1899. An elliptical walk shown west of the Walled Garden on the 1st edition OS map does not appear on any subsequent maps.

Today, the network of paths through the ravine and along the glen still exists. The path entering the estate on the west forks, with one leg going to the site of the old house. It then leads downhill towards the burn, where the waterfall runs dramatically through the ravine. One path crosses a footbridge and closely follows the north-east side of the burn. Where the ravine is steepest, the banks' natural stone is consolidated and revetted with stonework. This work was no doubt undertaken when the paths were laid out, and their structure was clearly defined. The footbridges have been strengthened and are no longer made of larch. A mixture of railings and wooden fences has now been placed on the sides of the ravine to give some protection for walkers. There are trees and shrubs growing on the sloping banks, including limes, oaks, laurels and other evergreens underplanted with ground cover. Snowdrops and daffodil buds were coming up in early February. The path on the north side descends into the gorge and then rises and divides, one route going uphill and opening out into a grassy area and the other following the course of the burn among some larch trees and distinctive laurel trees. The laurels have been heavily lopped and are growing into a crown shape, and the trees are underplanted with ivy and ferns. Some ferns, growing up to 4', are probably not indigenous to Scotland. There is a second, smaller waterfall near the north-east end of the ravine, which comes out from a truncated stone archway. Part of the backdrop to the waterfall is solid rock and nearby there is a footbridge which affords a good view of the flowing water. There is an old black-painted, rusty sewage pipe running through the ravine.

## 6.6 Agricultural and industrial features

### Doocot (Illus 33)

A doocot was mentioned in the Notice of Sale in the *Caledonian Mercury* in 1724 and is also shown on the 1st edition OS map to the east of the stable/office block. It was constructed of stone in the lectern style and is a category A listed building.

Stevenson (1985) describes it thus:

This well-preserved lectern type dovecote now lies within a 1950s housing estate, but formerly it stood in the grounds of West quarter House which was demolished to make way for the new houses. It is rectangular on plan with a perching course for the pigeons running right around the building above the level of the door. The side walls are crowstepped half way up the upper portion of the roof and above this there is a parapet topped by scrolls and pilasters with ball finials at the corners. There are two rows of openings for the birds—a set of three above the door and a set of six halfway up the roof. Between the lower set and top of the doorway there is an heraldic panel dated 1647 which bears the initials of Sir William Livingstone of West quarter and his wife Dame Helenore Livingstone, who were married in 1626. At first sight this would seem to suggest that the dovecote was of mid 17th century date, but on architectural grounds this is unlikely, and it is probable that the panel either belonged to an earlier dovecote, or was brought from a different building altogether. In the interior there are the remains of several hundred nesting boxes, but the potence (a ladder which rotated around a central pivot, giving access to all the boxes) is missing, its position being marked by a circular socket in the centre of the floor.



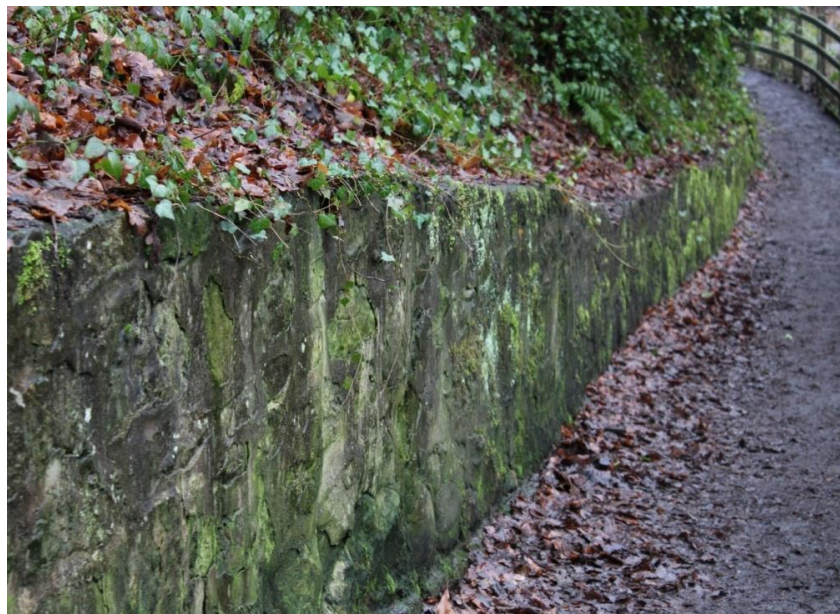
Illus 13: Gate piers at the south-west entrance to the woodland paths and glen, from the B 805.



Illus 14: Footbridge at the upper waterfall near the south-west entrance.



Illus 15: Upper waterfall.



Illus 16: Wall adjoining the path in the glen, with fencing on the opposite side of path.



Illus 17: Sewage pipe running alongside burn.



Illus 18: One of many large ferns in the glen.



Illus 19: Footbridge towards the north end of glen.



Illus 20: Pipe crossing the burn.



Illus 21: Playing fields with model village beyond.



Illus 22: Children's play park.



Illus 23: Parkland to the north-west.



Illus 24: Parkland at north end of Westquarter Avenue.



Illus 25: Westquarter Primary School.



Illus 26: Gate pillars at the north end of the South-west Approach, adjacent to the site of the house.



Illus 27: North-west corner of the Walled Garden.



Illus 28: Two araucaria trees which once stood to the north of the house.



Illus 29: Site of former Westquarter House.



Illus 30: Steps to the east of the house site, leading to Westquarter Road.



Illus 31: Beech trees forming part of semicircle of trees adjacent to steps to the east of house site.



Illus 32: North-east corner of the Walled Garden.



Illus 33: Westquarter Doocot.



Illus 34: South-west Approach leading from the site of the house.



Illus 35: Picnic area near the upper waterfall.

## 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.

<b>Quality:</b>	Outstanding	<b>Range:</b>	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 Westquarter

### Intrinsic value

Extensive 20th-century development, including construction of the late 1930s model village and more recent housing and the extension and upgrading of road networks, has chipped away at much of the 19th-century designed landscape. However, some of the components survive well, including areas of woodland (especially the Woodland Glen) and parkland. The national importance of the fine, 18th-century doocot is recognised in its category A listing. The model village in itself has intrinsic value having been designed to fit into, and even enhance, the existing landscape. The value of green space was recognised both by the retention of parkland and the provision of gardens for each cottage. The development of the 19th-century Westquarter designed landscape and the building of the 20th-century model village are legible in the evidence from historic maps and other documents. Westquarter is thus considered to have some intrinsic value.

### Contextual value

The designed landscape at Westquarter has close geographical and historical links to nearby estates such as Callendar Park. The surviving components continue to contribute to the landscape character of the Falkirk and Polmont areas. It is thus considered to have some contextual value.

### Associative value

Westquarter has several historical associations which add interest and depth to its story. These include the association of Westquarter Burn with the first battle of Falkirk (1298) and the estate's association with Falkirk's later 19th- and early 20th-century industrial heritage and social history, specifically that of mining and miners. The architect of the model village was John A W Grant, a leading proponent of the 'arts and crafts' style in Scotland. His plans put Patrick Geddes' ethos into practice, that is, making homes greener and healthier places. The Wooded Glen continues to be a significant amenity for local people as a place to walk and view wildlife. It is thus considered to have high associative value.

## Cultural significance

Despite the partial erosion of the designed landscape by 20th-century development, the intrinsic and contextual values of the surviving components at Westquarter, together with its high associative values and A-listed doocot, suggest it is of regional cultural significance.

## 8.0 Sources consulted

### 8.1 Historic maps

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General William Roy	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland (©British Library)	Lowlands
John Grassom	1817	To the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Stirling ...	
Ordnance Survey	Surveyed 1858-60, published 1864-5	Stirlingshire, six-inch (1st edition)	XXX, XXXI
Ordnance Survey	Surveyed 1860 Published 1864	Stirlingshire, 25 inch (1st edition)	XXX.8, XXX1.5
Ordnance Survey	Revised 1896, published 1899	Stirlingshire, six-inch (2nd edition)	XXX.NE XXX1.NW
Ordnance Survey	Revised 1914, published 1921	Stirlingshire, six-inch (3rd edition)	nXXX.NE
Ordnance Survey	Revised unknown, published c 1947	Stirlingshire, six-inch (4th edition)	nXXX.NE
Ordnance Survey	Revised 1946, published 1951	Stirlingshire, six-inch (5th edition)	XXX.NE

Source: <http://maps.nls.uk>

### 8.2 Aerial photographs

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