

The Development of the Gardens and Designed Landscape at South Bantaskine, Falkirk



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South Bantaskine, Falkirk

NGR: 8700 9715

Report on the development of the designed landscape

on behalf of

Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage
Registered Charity No SC034618

Cover Plate: Mary Wilson's pink and green pastel study of
the rock and water garden at South Bantaskine

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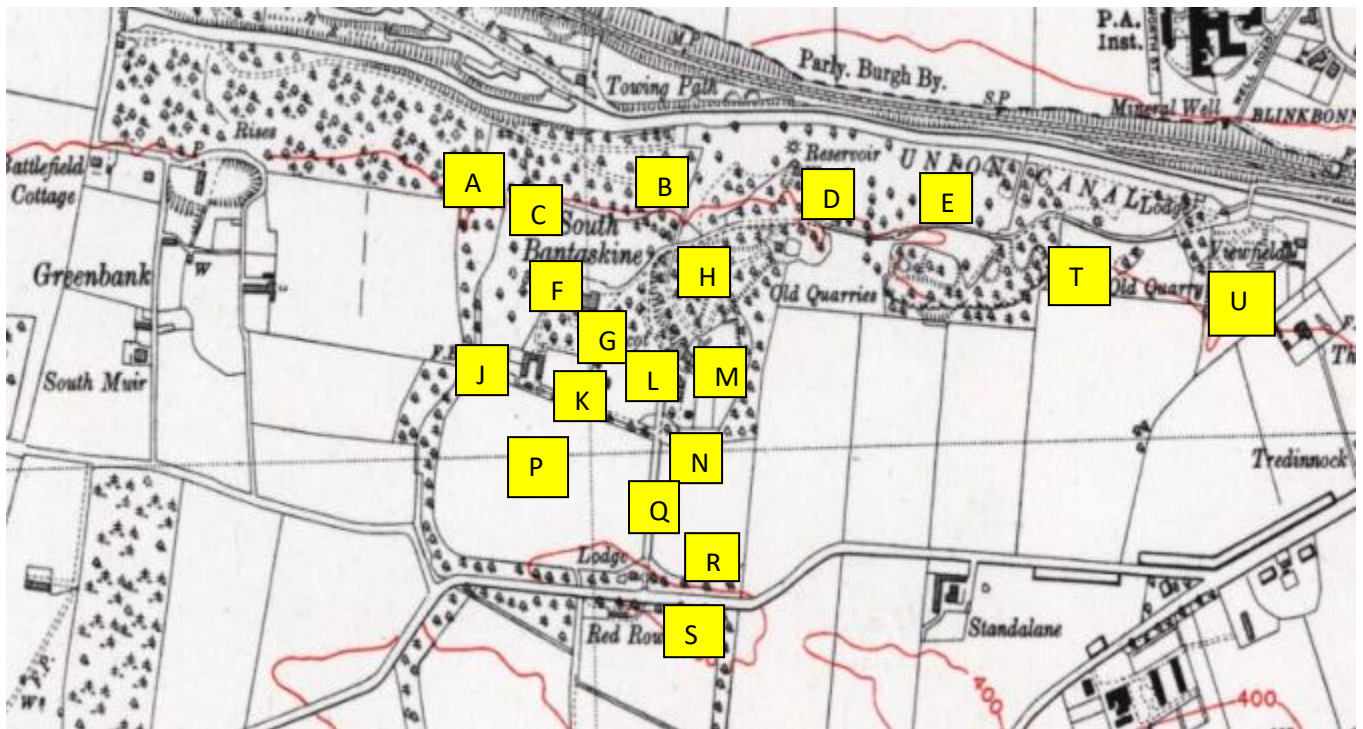
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Illus 1: The South Bantaskine estate as shown on the ca. 1947 edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map (OS 6, Stirlingshire sheet XXX.NW (4th Edition)), with components identified marked in blue (map reproduced from <http://www.maps.nls.uk>)

- A Ice House
- B Pleasure Walks
- C Northern Policy Parkland
- D North-west track and Reservoir
- E East-West Drive
- F Site of the Mansion House
- G The Shrubbery
- H U-shaped Quarry
- J Site of the New Stable Block
- K The Walled Garden
- L The Lawns
- M Site of Gardener's Cottage
- N Yew Glade
- P Southern Policy Parkland
- Q The Avenue
- R Water Mine Wall
- S Corunna (Redrow)
- T Site of the National Coal Board Buildings
- U Viewfield Quarry

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), focused on gardens and designed landscapes (GDLs) in the Falkirk local authority area while a separate strand, funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and the Heritage Lottery Fund, studied properties 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 has been written by Anna Hardstaff, the volunteer who conducted the research and survey work. The assessment of significance (section 7) was conducted by SGLH based on her findings.

2.0 Introduction to South Bantaskine

The South Bantaskine Estate is located close to the Falkirk High Railway Station on the northern fringes of Falkirk. [NGR 8700 9715]. The estate originally comprised approximately 150 acres. Its southerly boundary runs along the Union Canal which in turn lies parallel to the Glasgow to Edinburgh railway. To the north the estate is crossed by Lochgreen Road. From the highest point on the estate at 400 feet the land slopes down quite gently towards the canal at a height of 200 feet. The surface geology is of alluvial deposits [British Geological Survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>]. It is believed to be currently owned by Falkirk Council and is referred to as the South Bantaskine Park.

The following structures and sites on the Estate are noted in records: -

Web link	ID	Grade	Designation	Name
http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB31243	LB31243	B	Listed building	Bridge No.62, Union Canal
http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB10521	LB10521	B	Listed building	Obelisk, marking site of Falkirk battlefield
http://canmore.org.uk/site/185173	185173			Bantaskine Basin or Colliery Wharf
http://canmore.org.uk/site/185177	185177			Union Canal, Bantaskine boathouse
http://canmore.org.uk/site/149400	149400			Falkirk Firebrick Works

http://canmore.org.uk/site/134515	134515			South Bantaskine Colliery
http://canmore.org.uk/site/197493	197493			Union Canal Quay, Falkirk
http://canmore.org.uk/site/1221397 (Includes reference to 3 photographs dated 8.8.1973)	1221397			South Bantaskine Doocot (demolished)
http://canmore.org.uk/site/195796 (Includes reference to 2 plans and detailed drawings of the terrace balustrade)	195796			South Bantaskine House
http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/BTL9 South Bantaskine estate occupies land over which Government troops advanced and potentially the remains of buildings used for shelter by the Government right. http://canmore.org.uk/site/46749 (Includes reference to materials by The Battlefield Trust published 2005)	BTL9 46749		Designated	Part of battle site of Battle of Falkirk II
http://canmore.org.uk/site/46764	46764			Site of Fortlet (possible) (Roman)
http://canmore.org.uk/site/125402	125402			Axehead (stone)
http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM8952	SM8952		Scheduled monument	Union Canal
collections.falkirk.gov.uk/search.do?id=621168&db=object&page=1&view=detail	SML2165			Slit trenches
http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SMR74	SMR74			Ice house

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 limited site visit in January 2017 to identify and record surviving components and key elements of the historic designed landscape. Access to the immediate surroundings of the mansion was not granted. The survey employed a recording system designed for the project that combines written field notes, tablet-based data capture and photography. All available 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

South Bantaskine 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.

All map extracts, with the exception of Roy's map, are Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

Illustration: 2

Cartographer: Timothy Pont

Title: The East Central Lowlands (Stirling, Falkirk and Kilsyth) - Pont 32

Date: Ca. 1583-1614



On Pont's map "Pantaske" is marked to the west of Falkirk and just south of the dotted line that marks the line of the Roman Antonine Wall.

(Note that at that time there was a single estate of Bantaskine. At a later date the lands of Bantaskine were split into North Bantaskine and South Bantaskine, located either side of the Union Canal).

Illustration: 3

Cartographer: William Roy

Title: Military Survey of Scotland

Date: 1747-55



General Roy's map shows "Bantaskine" to the north of a so called "Roman Wall" and three enclosures on the opposite side of the Roman Wall. The most easterly enclosure shows some buildings marked in red and there is some regularity of planting. In the vicinity and close to the enclosures, field strips or rigs are marked.

Because of the proximity of the Roman Wall the enclosures are almost certainly part of the North Bantaskine estate and not South Bantaskine.

Additionally, to the west of the enclosures "Tamfour" is marked, as is the "Field of Battle"*. The South Bantaskine estate is located in the vicinity of both but it is not marked.

* The battle field is probably the site of the 2nd Battle of Falkirk that took place in 1746.

Illustration: 4

Cartographer: John Grassom

Title: To the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Stirling

Date: 1817



The first time “S. Bantaskine” is referred to on a map is on Grassom’s map. It is located in the middle of the map extract. A house and the **Avenue** are clearly shown. The house is surrounded by **policy parkland** and beyond that, to the north and south, **policy woodland**. Directly to the west of the house two square shaped areas are delineated by dotted lines. **The Avenue** gives access to Lochgreen road to the south of the house. On the southern side of Lochgreen Road is land also annotated with “S. Bantaskine”. The battlefield of 1746 and “Tamfuirhill” are also shown. To the north of South Bantaskine house both the Union Canal (officially opened in 1822) and the Falkirk Basin are shown. On the north side of the canal, [North] Bantaskine house and the Antonine Wall are marked.

Illustration: 5
Cartographer: Ordnance Survey
Title: OS 25 inch 1st edition Stirling sheet XXX.7
Date: Surveyed 1860, published 1864



This OS map shows far more extensive policies than Grassom's map and for the first time evidence of industrial activity on the estate is shown. The map has been hand tinted. Buildings are shown in red and water/ponds in blue.

South Bantaskine house and Avenue remain, though the Avenue is now shown as tree lined and at its entrance onto Lochgreen Road there is a Lodge house [the South Lodge], with its own small enclosure, presumably a garden. The footprint of the house is symmetrical indicating that this is the early nineteenth century mansion house. There is some regularity in the planting in front of the northern [front] elevation of the house and the policy parkland to the west of the house has been divided into two by a line of broadleaf trees. To the rear or south side of the main house there is a possible **shrubbery**, a **walled garden** and a stable block.

The **walled garden** is a large roughly square shaped enclosure that has been subdivided into three. In its north-east corner there is a small building.

Between the house and walled garden there are paths and a formal square shaped pond in the **shrubbery**. A diamond shaped arrangement of paths adjoins the stable block.

To the east of the walled garden the map shows an area of approximately the same size and shape as the walled garden, lined with trees on all four sides. There is a [mine] shaft marked in the centre of the area.

The estate can be accessed along the Avenue from the southern entrance. Opposite the Avenue's entrance lodge, a [mine] Air shaft is marked. Next to the shaft is a curved boundary, possibly part of a "water mine" [see Time Line]. On the south side of Lochgreen road **Corunna**, a row of [miners] cottages are shown.

On either side of the Avenue there is the southern policy parkland, though the frontage onto Lochgreen Road is planted with trees, presumably a shelter belt and/or privacy. At the end of the straight section of the Avenue two semi-circular enclosures are marked -these are the **yew glades**.

Further on along the Avenue lies the original stable block. It has an inverted "F" shaped footprint. It is accessed from the Avenue by a spur along which there is a pond, possibly a coach wash or horse pond.

Although this is the first time the stable, walled garden and shrubbery are shown on a dated map, there is evidence to indicate that they were in existence at the time of the earlier mansion house and the 1817 map [see Time Line].

Further past the original stables the Avenue divides and a westerly branch widens behind the house, presumably providing an area for coaches to pull up. A path leads from the eastern side of the house to join the easterly branch of the main drive.

The Avenue continues down the hill and turns to the east passing over a bridge and then runs the whole length of the estate, bisecting it along a roughly east-west axis. We refer to this section as the **E-W drive [with two bridges]**. There is some regularity of trees lining parts of the driveway and some sections are enclosed. Eventually the E-W drive comes to the far end of the estate and turns and passes over the Union Canal at Bridge No. 62, next to a canal basin.

Just beyond the most westerly bridge a track is marked running in a NW direction through woodland towards the canal. It terminates at a gully in a small enclosure complete with a building [annotated on the map as area 1915]. A second gully is marked to the east in a more open area. [area 1933]

Close to the canal bridge No 62 there is evidence of **industrial activity** - "coke ovens", a "coal pit"[**Viewfield pit/quarry**] and "fire brick works" [Falkirk Fire Brick Works] are shown with attendant buildings.

Adjacent to the south side of the E-W drive there are two main areas of quarrying within which both rock faces are shown. There are various small buildings in the area including the probable Quarry cottage with garden [area 1912]. Both quarries have a path/track leading under the E-W drive and down to the Union Canal. In time these paths become some of the estate's **pleasure walks**. The **two bridges** over which the E-W drive passes are shown on the map . The most westerly quarry is a **U-shaped quarry** that is most probably the route of a pleasure walk and by the early 20th century the "fairy glen" rock and water garden.

We have referred to the other quarry as the **Middle quarry**.

The remaining areas of the estate are mostly open ground with some trees although there are also three irregularly shaped enclosures. These are located next to the canal and adjacent to the access tracks leading to the quarries.

The northern boundary of the estate is marked by the Union canal with a path and on the other side of the canal is the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway [opened in the 1842]

Illustration: 6

Cartographer: Ordnance Survey

Title: OS 6 inch, Stirlingshire sheet XXX.NE (2nd edition)

Date: Revised 1896, published 1899



By the end of the nineteenth century the industrial practices appear to have ended.

A new house, identifiable by its irregular footprint, has been constructed slightly to the west of the position of the previous house. The original house and the original "F" shaped stables have disappeared and in the place of the latter is a rectangular area bounded by a path. A small building is shown close by and this is most probably the doocot that survived from the original stable block until the 1970's, though it is not marked as such.

A "FB" [footbridge] is shown crossing the burn that runs along the western boundary. It is in the vicinity of the ice house and presumably afforded access to the ice house from the mansion house, though no path is marked on the map.

The Avenue, tree-lined on one side only, and the southern lodge are shown.

There are now circular paths in the shrubbery.

The E-W drive is as before though there is a triangular turning around point close to Bridge No. 62 and a second Lodge has been constructed at this northern entrance to the estate.

For the first time the two bridges along the driveway over the quarry access tracks are shown, though they must have been in existence when the drive was first constructed. One bridge is recorded in the photographic archive [Falkirk Community Archives P18257]

The coke ovens, coal pit and fire brick works are no longer marked. However quite an extensive “Old Quarry” is marked on the area of the previous fire brick works. The two original quarries are now also referred to as “Old Quarries”. The buildings within them are still shown including the probable Quarry cottage [shown hatched].

Other minor changes are the absence of both shafts and the addition of “Springs” close to the Union Canal in the position of an earlier gully, enclosure and small building. The NW access track leading to this area is no longer marked, though its retaining wall is shown. A second gully to the west is still shown.

The miners’ cottages, Corunna, have been renamed Red Row.

In the map extract below, the walled garden is shown but with no indication of its layout, as was the practice of the OS at the time of the survey. A glass house is clearly shown on the 25-inch map with cross-hatching to denote a glass roof. Similarly, the largely glass conservatory to the north of the walled garden is also shown cross-hatched. Adjoining its western wall is a “U” shaped building annotated with the letter “P” [for pump ?]. This is the **new stable block** and it can be accessed not only by a drive running along the southern side of the walled garden but also via an extension to the E-W drive from the front of the mansion house. The extract also shows a small enclosure adjoining the new stables on their western wall and a small pond and building at their entrance. The pond could well have been used to clean carriages. The access road to the stables along the walled garden appears to be tree lined.



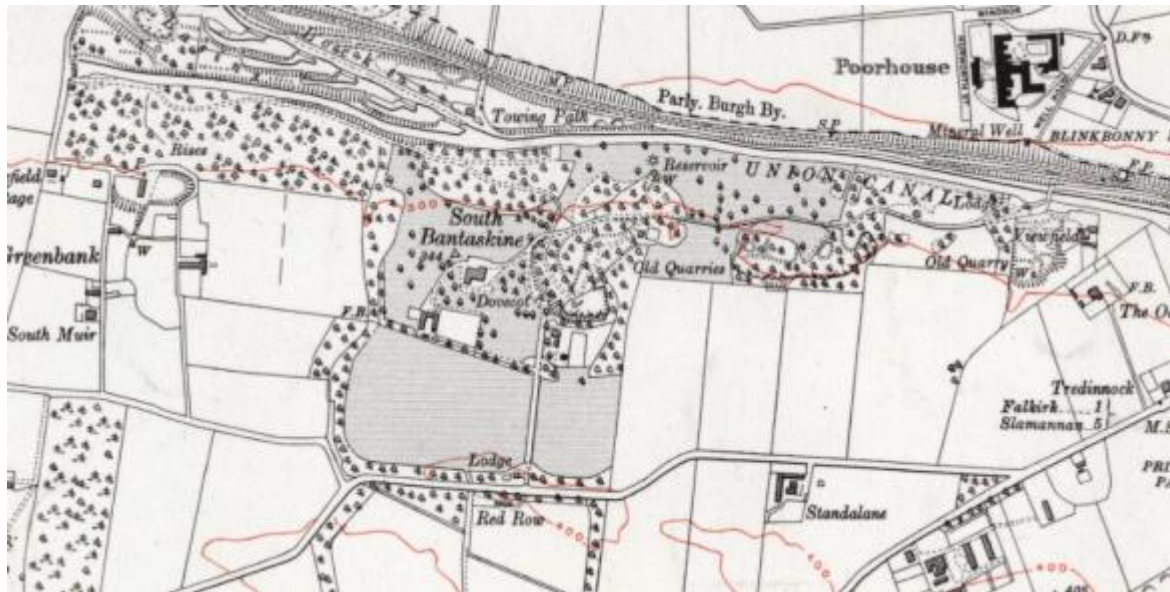
OS 25-inch (2nd edition), Stirlingshire sheet XXX.7

Illustration: 7

Cartographer: Ordnance Survey

Title: OS 6 inch, Stirlingshire sheet XXX.NE (3rd edition)

Date: Surveyed 1913, published 1921



The house, walled garden, old lodge and new “U” shaped stable block are as before though the conservatory and original greenhouse are not shown.

The Dooct is marked in the vicinity of the original inverted “F” stable block, and photographic evidence indicates that this was a remnant of the original stable block. The circular paths of the shrubbery and the rectangular path around the site of the original stable block are no longer apparent and in their place small trees [shrubs ?] appear to be planted in an approximate circle.

A new footbridge over the western boundary burn is marked close to the new stable block, though the earlier footbridge is no longer marked.

A small building and rectangular enclosure, glasshouse and **possible orchard** appear on the cleared ground at the top of the eastern side of the main drive. This may be the **Gardeners cottage**.

The North lodge is shown next to the canal basin at Bridge No. 62 and a “W” [for well ?] appears in the Viewfield pit/quarry.

The two earlier quarries are overgrown, though a small pond within an enclosure appear in the “**U shaped**” quarry which we later refer to as the probable site of the “fairy glen” rock and water garden. The possible Quarry cottage remains.

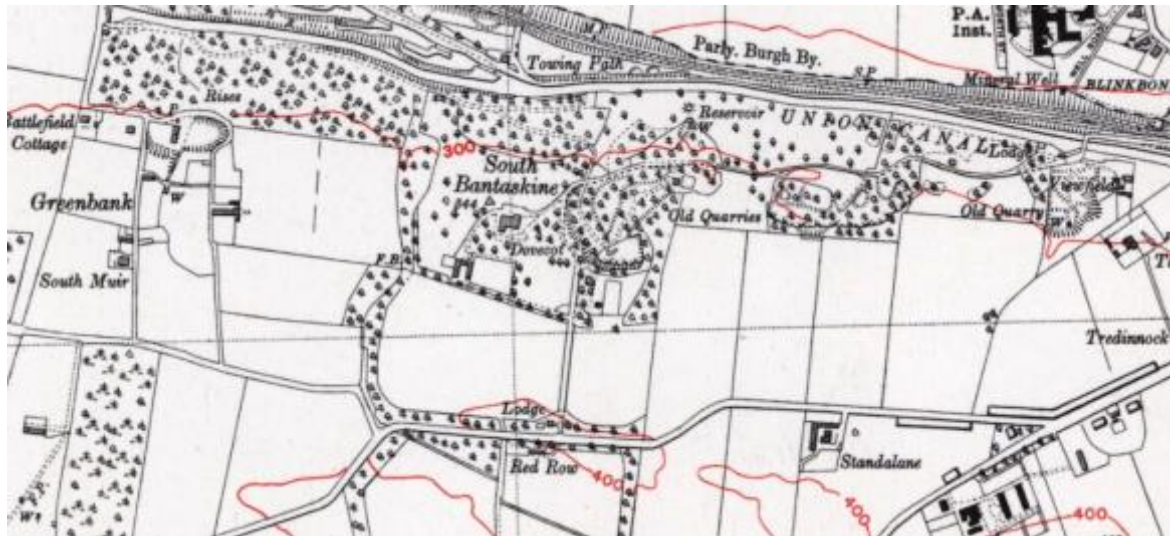
The site of the earlier “Springs” is now the location of a small circular Reservoir next to which a “W” is marked at the head of one of the original gullies. The NW retaining wall is still shown. The other gully, to the east, is no longer shown.

Illustration: 8

Cartographer: Ordnance Survey

Title: OS 6 inch, Stirlingshire sheet XXX.NW (4th edition)

Date: Probable publication date ca. 1947



No changes to the OS map of 1913 except that a small building in the centre of the Middle Quarry has been removed.

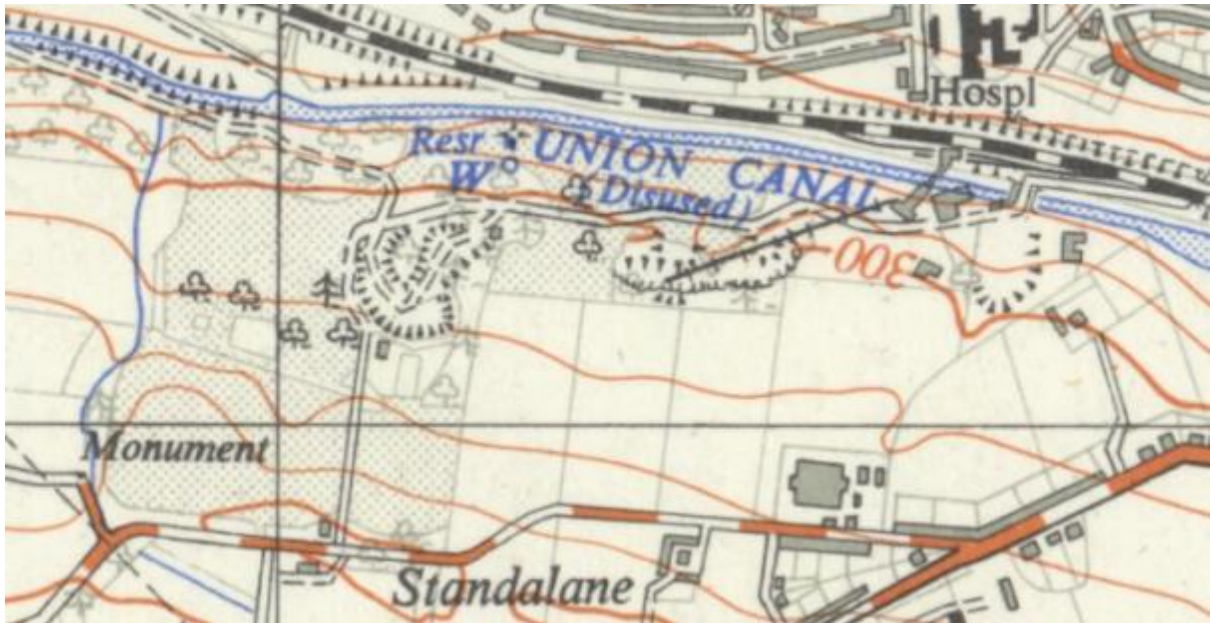
Much of the policy woodland is identified by smaller shrub symbols. Elsewhere larger trees are shown, though these appear to be less densely packed than before, possibly indicating that the woodlands have been partially cleared. The lines of trees across the northern policy parkland and across the open ground to the north of the middle quarry are less well defined.

Illustration 9

Cartographer: Ordnance Survey

Title: OS 1:25000 Sheet NS87

Date: 1956



No changes to the OS map of 1947 except that the main house and stable block are not shown, having been demolished in the early 1950s.

Pit head buildings and a mineral rail track to the Middle Quarry and conveyor over the Union canal have been constructed.

4.2 Aerial Photographs

By the time of the OS Air Photo Mosaic of 1944-50 (NS 87 N.E.) (Stirlingshire) the Estate was in decline. The house, the U-shaped stables, and later lodge have been demolished. The walled garden, old lodge, drives and the building to the east of the drive can be seen.

At the far eastern side of the Estate, on the site of the original coke ovens and coal pit, the National Coal Board buildings are clearly visible. There are two large buildings, a bridge/conveyor over the Union Canal to a smaller building next to the railway line.

5.0 Time line of the Development of the South Bantaskine Designed Landscape

Date / Period Event / Phase of Development

1583-1614 Pont's reference to Pantaske indicates the general area of the current South Bantaskine estate on the westerly outskirts of Falkirk. In Gaelic Bantaskine means "land belonging to a township or settlement" [www.falkirkherald.co.uk].

1746 On the 17th January the 2nd Battle of Falkirk took place close to the current South Bantaskine Park. The Jacobites drew the line of battle with their left flank positioned approximately where the existing battle monument now stands, on the southern boundary of the Park.

[http://www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk]

1817 Grassom's map shows a house and the Avenue.

There is a strong possibility that the earlier stable block, doocot, walled garden and shrubbery were also in existence, though they are not shown on the map. This stable has been dated to the early 19th century [Bailey G 1991] and photos show that its construction is very different and incongruous to the later house as it is of harled stone with a pantile roof. The lower part of an ornate Doocot formed the pend into the original stable block.



Illustration 10 : Late 19th Century photograph of the original stable block

The Doocot consisted of a square lower structure, measuring 15 ft by 12 ft, with a large segmental arch, over which was an octagonal superstructure. Each face of the superstructure had a blind Gothic window, except that on the southern side above the arch which was pierced by ten bird holes and provided with perching ledges. The window on the eastern side functioned as an entrance, reached by a ladder. The lower floor was rubble built whilst the upper storey was coursed. The slated roof was ogee shaped, surmounted by a finial composed of a metal ball on a pole. At some time, a small dormer had been placed on the S side of the roof to provide additional access for the birds. Internally A. O Cooke describes the doocot as being lined with oblong nests that were accessed from the pend through a trapdoor. [Cooke A O 1920].

Although it survived for some time after the demolition of the house, the Doocot was demolished in the early 1970's by the District Council.



Illustration 11 : 1970's photograph of the Doocot

[Calatria 1991 pp53 and <http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives. 1850's photo : P24579. 1870's photos : P24605, 18252, P44119 and Photos of the Doocot in October 1970 : P03594, 49805, 03810, 07149/50]

1822 The Union Canal formally opened in 1822, though it appears as the northern boundary to the estate on John Grassom's 1817 map because the Falkirk end of the canal was the first section to be completed. [Brown H 1997].

The development of engineered infrastructure had a significant influence on quarry locations. Substantial quantities of stone would have been required for the Union Canal, the Forth and Clyde canal and for the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway [opened 1842] and Stirlingshire Midland Junction Railway [opened 1850]. [Gillespie M R et al 2013].

The quarries at Bantaskine were originally created to exploit the Upper Drumgray Coal seam, but sandstone beds above and below the coal seam were later quarried and used as building stone. [Cameron et al 1988]

Bridge No. 62 at South Bantaskine is a listed structure [see p.7]. It was later referred to as Walkers bridge. [<http://www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk>]

Early 1800's Two nineteenth century Russel and Aitken plans of coal workings in the area show some of the structures on the estate. Unfortunately, no precise date is given for either plan, though from the

shape of the footprint of the house it appears that they were drawn before the house was rebuilt in 1861/2.

Plan A1802.081 is probably the earlier of the two. It shows the extent of coal workings next to the walled garden. The garden is shown divided into quarters by paths and enclosed by a boundary path and wall.



Illustration 12 : 19th century diagram of coal workings showing the divisions within the Walled Garden

[The walled garden is shown at the top left-hand side of the diagram and part of the house footprint is at the top right-hand side]

On Plan A1803.070 the same workings are annotated “old waste”. The walled garden is shown divided into a large rectangular bed on the south side and two remaining quarters to the north. Paths still divide the beds. Three entrances are shown - one on the eastern wall and close to a small building in the NE corner of the garden, one in the centre of the northern wall [most probably the main arch] and one opposite this in the centre of the southern wall. Outside, on three sides the garden is bounded by an area outlined in red, possibly a shrubbery. Two red circles in the northern policy area may also indicate the location of specimen trees.

The house and original stables are also shown, as is a very faint pencil square in the vicinity of the formal pond [?] shown on the OS sheet of 1864 but not on later OS maps.

An area of “ironstone workings” and a “cropout of soft coal” [outcrop ?] in the vicinity of our Middle Quarry are also indicated. “Splint coal” is being mined from the “Victory” pit close to the “miners’ cottages” on the southern side of the “Turnpike Road” [now Lochgreen Road].

A "water mine" and curved boundary are shown in the position of the OS 1864 Air shaft, indicating that both were probably part of the drainage system of the mine workings. The "water mine" runs across the estate and discharges close to the Union canal [possibly marked as the site of the later "Springs" and later still "Reservoir "on OS sheets]. It crosses The Avenue at one point.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives A1802.081 and A1803.070]

1828 Robert Wilson [1789-1836] owned mines at Banton near Kilsyth and in 1828 he came to South Bantaskine. The mine at South Bantaskine produced coal for the Carron Iron works. [SMR 1050]

1842 Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway was opened in the 1842. [Gillespie M R et al 2013]

1836 or 1854 There are two versions of how the South Bantaskine estate came into the ownership of Robert Wilson's younger son, John, also a Coalmaster.

According to archive papers [John Wilson of South Bantaskine papers in the Falkirk Community Trust archives <http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> A1849] and in an article published by Ian Scott in the Falkirk Herald [23 March 2013] John was 21 when in 1836 he *inherited* South Bantaskine on the death of his father. Robert's elder son, William Wilson, had the colliery at Banknock. Robert had purchased South Bantaskine in 1828 [SMR 1050]

However, an article by Alistair Campbell in Calatria states that John *bought* South Bantaskine in 1854. [Campbell A 1994 in Calatria Vol 6 pp 61-76].

Whatever the case the articles agree that in 1848 John Wilson married Mary Russel, daughter of James Russel of Arnotdale and Falkirk's leading lawyer and a successful businessman. As well as a coalmaster, John himself was an Honorary Sheriff Substitute for Stirlingshire & Dunbartonshire, a JP and an elder on Falkirk Relief Church [later Falkirk West Church].

It was a long and happy marriage and produced 9 children, one son, Robert Wilson [Jnr], and eight daughters named Catherine Wilson Hamilton [wife of David James Hamilton, Professor of Pathological Anatomy, Aberdeen], Margaret Henderson Wilson Gilton [wife of Rev James Gilton], Jane Russel Wilson, Mary Georgina Wade Wilson [Artist], Bessie Hardie Wilson, Wilhelmina Wilson Cadenhead [wife of James Cadenhead], Helen [Nell] Wilson OBE and Johanna Octavia Wilson McNeill [Joey]. The whole family, excepting the two youngest children are shown in a family portrait from about 1860/2. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives P30673]



Illustration 13 : Late 19th century photograph of the Wilson family

1852-1856 According to the Valuation Roll of 1856 the Falkirk Fire Brick Works were listed as being occupied but unfinished. The works were leased to Cowan, Walker and Company - Alexander Cowan and Robert Walker. The relationship was, however, not without its problems as John Wilson claimed outstanding rents in the Court of Session from Cowan and Walker between 1859-61. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> EN132/Wilson/21].

1858-1870's The family outgrew the original house at South Bantaskine and so a new mansion house was commissioned and completed in 1862. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> EN132/Wilson/24].

The OS map surveyed in 1860 and published in 1864 shows the new house, the Avenue and lodge, the E-W drive, the walled garden, and the earlier stable block. There are photographs of all these structures in the archives, together with the various lodges on the estate and pleasure walks dating from the late 1870's. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> Falkirk Community Trust archives P18270 and 18269]

Mary, Joey and Helen lived on in the house in the early part of the 1900's. Both Mary and Helen died in 1939. [Scotland's Garden Scheme record]. The three sisters were driven around in their Rolls Royce by their chauffeur Mr William Young. The car was garaged in the stables. When he retired in 1942 he was presented with a photograph album of the estate which together with other photographs from the archive provide a detailed record of the physical appearance of the estate in the 1870's. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> Falkirk Community Trust archives A2105].

1860-70's

In the book *Round about Falkirk* (1868) Robert Gillespie describes the setting of the house :

"A short distance west [of] the canal stands South Bantaskine House, splendidly situated and quite hid by the trees of the intervening dell..."

He also provides a four-verse poem about a lone water hen at South Bantaskine. The 3rd verse provides an evocative description of the policy woodlands around the house :-

" 'Mong Bantaskine's leafy vales,
Thrush and merle sit wrapt in song,
Till their lettings in the dales,
Ravish all the feather'd throng."

Photos and architectural drawings show that the new 2 storey house had a 3-storey corner tower on the north-eastern side that must have afforded far reaching views across the Forth Valley to the Ochils. The house was of the Scottish baronial style and had not only a corner tower but also turrets and a castellated roof line. It was built of ashlar stone and had a pitched slate roof. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> .Falkirk Community Trust archives P 18251, 09130, 32671, 24605, 18248]



Illustration 14 : Late 19th century photograph of the 1860's mansion house

The windows had inverted U-shaped drip caps. Some of the ornate stained-glass windows survived the later demolition of the house and are currently on display in the Howgate shopping centre in Falkirk. The windows depict three figures - Prince Charles Edward Stuart and two of his generals from the 2nd Battle of Falkirk, George Murray and Sir John Drummond. It is understood that the Wilsons' ancestors fought in the battle. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> P05617 and P29643].

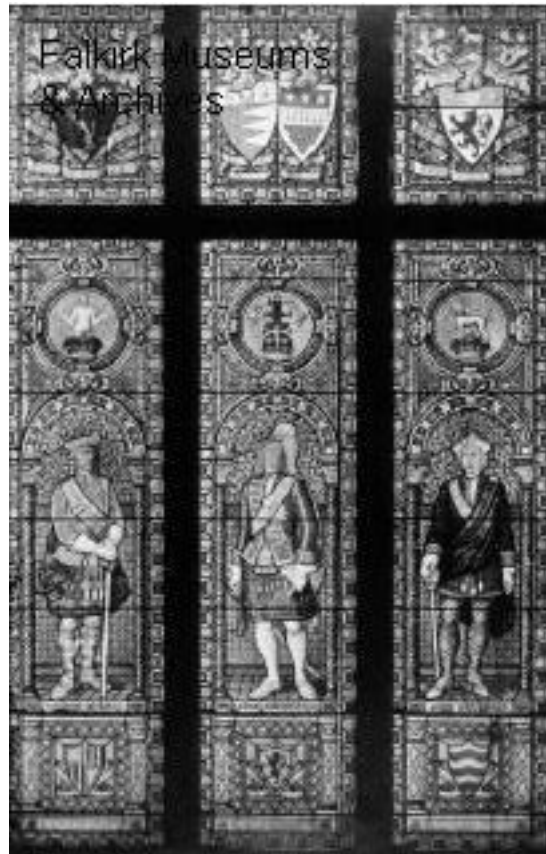


Illustration 15 : Stained glass window from the mansion house depicting three figures including Sir John Drummond

John Wilson died on 13th April 1883 and his Will itemises the furniture in each room of the house. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk/EN2055/Wilson/7b>]

The straight Avenue which leads into the estate from Lochgreen road was also photographed in the 1870's. It had what appears to be a hardcore surface and there were regularly planted trees either side bounded by dilapidated timber fencing. The entrance onto Lochgreen road comprised a curved rubble stone wall with a timber gate hung from stone pillars, either side of which are personnel gates that also hung from stone pillars. The pillars were topped with stone balls. There was a small square shaped lodge to the west of the entrance gate that was built of stone and slate. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> .Falkirk Community Trust archives P18269/70]

Similarly, the E-W drive and its gateway was photographed in the 1870's. It was also laid with hardcore and at the entrance was the North Lodge. It had an iron gate hung from stone pillars and a single personnel gate on the same side as the lodge.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>.Falkirk Community Trust Archives P18275].

Near the entrance and on the approach to the house the drive was bounded by 6 strap metal estate fencing. The fence appeared to be in a better condition than the fence of the original drive, indicating that this drive was probably being used as the main entrance at this time. This would seem to be likely as it provides a more direct route into Falkirk and sweeps up in front of the main entrance to the house.

In between the fenced sections, part of the driveway was bounded by a low stone retaining wall on the southern side. Estate policy trees and rhododendrons were dotted along its length giving the drive the feeling of a country lane. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> . Falkirk Community Trust Archives P18255]. The drive passed over a bridge above the access to the U-shaped quarry. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> .Falkirk Community Trust Archives P18257].

There are also photographs of several lodges and cottages, though the maps only identify specifically the South Lodge at the entrance to the original drive, the South lodge, and the North lodge at the E-W drive entrance, close to Bridge 62.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives. Photos of the stables - P 18283 and P18263, South Lodge P18270, Elm Cottage P03594 [photo dating from 1960's], Quarry Cottage P12667, West Lodge P18253, North Lodge P18275, Gardener's Cottage P13896].

An 1870's photograph shows the conservatory along the path between the house and the walled garden. As would be expected it was a glazed structure with a four-ridged glazed roof. In the photo the path past the conservatory leads directly to the main arched entrance to the walled garden where there is the gardener with two watering cans. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives P18256]

The OS sheet published in 1899 shows the site of a glass building - most probably the conservatory. We know from the photographs dating from the 1870's that there was a flower garden within the walled garden.

i) Entrances

The main archway features prominently in two photos from the 1870's in particular. Firstly, there is a photo of Joey, Helen and Jane cutting ivy from its walls. The entrance has an iron gate. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives P24669].



Illustration 16 : Late 19th century photograph of the arched entrance to the Walled Garden

Secondly the main arch is photographed from inside the walled garden. Directly against the garden wall, to the left of the archway is a glasshouse and a metal repair strip has been fixed across a crack in the centre of the arch.[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> . Falkirk Community Trust Archives P18266. There is also a later photograph of the archway taken in the 1980's [P23392]

One photograph also features gates and a high wall. It is unclear whether these were other entrances to the Walled Garden, though this seems likely as no evidence for other walls on the estate has been found.

ii) Sub-divisions within the walled garden

Photograph P18265 shows several women in a garden with a high [possibly brick] wall in the background within which there appears to be two gates. Beyond the wall the top of a large tree [? Cedar] is visible. There is a bank on the left-hand side of the photograph and a flight of steps flanked at the bottom by two terracotta pots each containing a specimen *Agarvae*. P18267 is taken facing the same flight of eight steps again featuring the *Agarvae* in pots . The fourth step is noticeably worn. In the garden above the steps there is a row of what appear to be raspberry canes.[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives P18265, 6 and 7 and 18256].

iii) Herbaceous borders - plantings

A newspaper column entitled Rural Notes in the Falkirk Herald of 7th January 1858 comments on the mildness of the season and states that "*In the garden of John Wilson esq. South Bantaskine the*

following flowers are in bloom - Azalea nudiflora, wallflower, polyanthus, marigold, pansy, monthly rose, geant de batailles rose, anemone, Acuba Japonica and other plants."

Today the monthly rose is registered under the name Quatre Saisons Continue. It is a deep pink damask rose with a strong fragrance and can grow up to 5 feet in height. It is known to have been bred before 1633.

Geant des batailles rose is a smaller 2 feet high deep pink hybrid rose which was bred by Nerard in France in 1845. [Helpmefind.com]

Azalea nudiflora, common name honeysuckle azalea, is a rhododendron with an open pale pink flower, not unlike a large honeysuckle flower in appearance.

Photograph P10556 shows a Mr Beeton and a Miss Wilson on a path in front of a wall. The wall appears to be of brick and painted white and is clad with a flowering climbing plant [possibly rose or fruit tree]. There is a flower border next to the path.

[see <http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. For all photograph references].



Illustration 17 : Mr Beeton and Miss Wilson [in the walled garden ?]

The family used a lawn to the east of the corner tower for croquet and badminton matches. [http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk.Falkirk Community Trust archives P24605 and P18284].



Illustration 18 : Late 19th century photograph of the croquet lawn to the east of the mansion house

Another grassed area, to the east of shrubbery was being used as a tennis court between at least 1870-1890. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives 18252, 24603 and 24602]. There is also a large group photo taken in this spot where there are bowls in the foreground. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives P03594].



Illustration 19 : Late 19th century photograph of the bowling green/tennis court [note the Doocot in the background]

There are several photographs of pleasure walks through policy woodlands which it has not been possible to place exactly.

A pleasure walk also ran along the bottom of the U-shaped quarry as evidenced in two photographs. The path had a fine gritty surface contained within narrow timber strips.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives P18250/54/55/57/58/59/62/71 and later photographs taken in the 1980's P26393/95]

A meadow on the estate features in photograph P18261 from the 1870's.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>.]

Robert Gillespie's poem (1868) also features the canal side meadows of the estate :-

*"Bird, O quit those wailing reeds,
Which have caught thy sorrow tone ;
Upward fly to flow'ry meads -
Lifeless he, who left thee lone.*

*"And the sun, high o'er the sword,
Woos and wins the daisies sweet ;
Spreads a carpet, gaily starr'd,
Fit for any fairy's feet."*

Explanatory text alongside the archive photographs states that the Wilsons employed gardeners. Mr Adam Mackenzie and his son, George were both gardeners and are both are shown in separate photographs dating from 1905. The description of George's photo states that he was a gardener on the estate for 40 years.



Illustration 20 : Photograph of the gardener in 1905

The archive also contains photos of the Mackenzie family and Adam Mackenzie's cottage. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archive photos P13893,6 and 7 and P17196]

There are also archived 19th century photographs of the coachman, Mr Reid, a housemaid, Eva Gill and another annotated "woman worker" who appears to be standing in the new stable courtyard, next to the large water barrel, with a bundle of reeds. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives P18273, 24710 and 18281 respectively]

The brickworks were still in business in 1867. By 1873 Robert Walker and Son were running the business but it had been demolished prior to 1899, probably about 1882. [<http://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk>]

Bridge No. 62 at South Bantaskine is a listed structure [see p.7]. It was also referred to as Walkers bridge. [<http://www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk>]

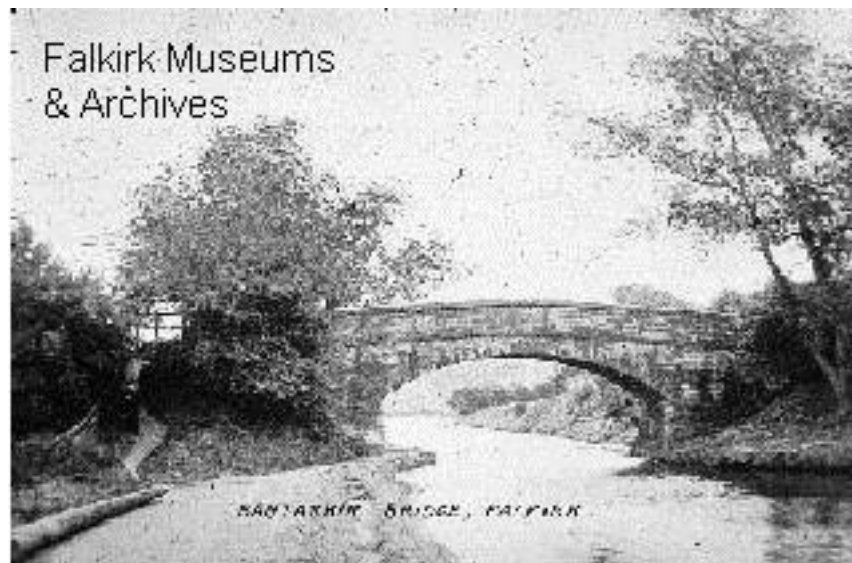


Illustration 21 : Bridge No. 62 over the Union Canal

By the time of the survey of the 1864 OS sheet the miners' cottages on the south side of Lochgreen road had been given a name - Corunna. They were located close to a pit on an earlier plan named Victory pit.

The cottages appear to have been named after the battle of Corunna (1809) in NW Spain between the French and British. The British troops included troops from the Highland Divisions including Drummonds brigade.

Sir John Drummond is immortalised in the stained-glass windows of South Bantaskine and in the naming of Corunna it seems that John Wilson also celebrated a later battle in which the Drummonds fought.

A valuation by George Glendinning dated 19th June 1879 gives an indication of the size and state of the South Bantaskine estate at the time. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk

Community Trust archives EN132/Wilson/24]

Mr Glendinning reports that "There is a well stocked garden with conservatory adjoining and a well laid out shrubbery surrounding the Mansion house." He also states that "The Plantations on the property are thriving."

According to his report the estate at South Bantaskine included 106 acres of arable or pasture of which 45 were within the policy and 59.5 south of the turnpike road [Lochgreen Road], 1.5 detached and adjoining Falkirk and 44.895 of Plantations. A summary of his valuation is as follows :-

A total of 148 acres of land valued at 30/- per acre,

44.895 acres of growing timber valued at £35/acre,

10 cottages and 2 lodges at a total value of £1080,

1.5 acres of timber suitable for felling valued at £20/acre and a Years Purchase of 32,

Feu duties at a Years Purchase of 20,

Mansion house and gardens valued at £ 10,000,

and an additional spot figure for the "*amenity of the estate*" of £ 2000.

The grand total value of the estate was given at £ 22,348-10s-6p.

1880s to 1900 Between 1884-1906 "policy fields on the avenue" were leased at a rent of £14per annum to a Mr Aitken [of Russel and Aitken ?][<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives EN2055/Wilson/8].

The new stable block was in existence by 1896.

At that time the earlier stable block had been demolished. It is reasonable to assume that they were considered to be a physical nuisance and so new stables were built further away from the house. The only part of the original stables to be retained was the Doocot, which survived until the late 1960's/early 1970's. [See p. 16]

The new stables were sited adjacent to the west wall of the walled garden. They had a U-shaped footprint and close to them was a pond, presumably used to provide water for the horses or possibly for washing off coaches. An access track ran from the Avenue to the new stables along the southern wall of the walled garden. It was hidden from view from the adjoining policy parkland by a row of trees.

Photographic evidence shows that the new stables were constructed of stone rubble with a slate roof, and had a covered canopy over the entrance that was supported by roughly hewn tree trunks. The central courtyard was laid with large rectangular stone slabs. In the courtyard there was a mounting block and a large metal water trough next to which stood a large wooden barrel [approximately 5-6 foot high]. [<http://collections.falkirk.gov.uk> 1920's photos : Falkirk Community Trust archives P18263, 1930's photo of car in stable courtyard P44121/22/23, 44327]

1900s The garden was clearly an important component of the estate in the early part of the 20th century. One of John and Mary Wilson's daughters, Mary Georgina was born in 1856 and

trained as an artist in Edinburgh and Paris. She illustrated several books including one entitled "Garden Memories" and another "Scottish Gardens" (Sir Herbert Maxwell, 1911). The gardens of South Bantaskine are subjects in both and a copy of Scottish Gardens and photographs of some of her drawings of the South Bantaskine gardens are kept in the Falkirk Community Trust Archives at Callendar House.

Mary Wilson produced many unpublished and so far as it is possible to ascertain, undated pastels of the gardens, though some are very similar to the description of the garden in the 1920's and 30's.

In the 1930's the Wilson sisters opened the gardens to the public under Scotland's Garden Scheme. Falkirk Herald published announcements and reports for some of the open days. [Falkirk Herald published 21.5.1932, 20.5.33, 2.6.34, 17.6.39]

Dates and takings for the open days were as follows :-

May 28th 1932 : Total takings £ 13

May 13th and 27th and 1st June 1933 : Total takings £ 15 10s

May 26th and 14th and 15th July 1934 : Total takings £ 11, 8s and 6d

May 21st and 11th June 1937 : Admission one shilling, cars one shilling. Total takings £8 10s.

May 20th and 17th June 1939 : Admission 6d, cars one shilling. Total takings £ 5

[Scotland's Garden Scheme un-archived records]

In 'Scottish Gardens' Sir Herbert Maxwell devotes three pages to the garden at South Bantaskine. He commends them for their all year round appeal although he also states,

"not many rare or out of the common plants [are] cultivated at South Bantaskine; one shrub however deserves notice as evidence of the climatic capabilities even of this district which is about the coldest of any similar elevation in the Scottish Lowlands. Rhododendron Thomsoni is one of the most brilliant of a class usually reputed too tender to endure northern winters, has attained a height of eight feet..."

Mary Wilson's pastels depict herbaceous borders, though it is unclear as to whether these are illustrations of scenes from within or outside the walled garden. For the purposes of this report it has been assumed that all images depict the flower gardens within the walled garden.

i) Sub-divisions within the walled garden

A raised area is depicted in two pastels. The first entitled "A June morning" appears in *Garden Memories* [1911]. The picture almost certainly depicts the same flight of steps featured in an 1870's photo. There are 8 steps flanked at the bottom by two *Agarvie* in pots. Either side the beds are planted with purple foxgloves and light pink peonies [?]. At the top there is an arch clad with a white flowering climber [rose ?] and in the background there is the suggestion of a wall.

The other pastel is reproduced in the book *Scottish Gardens*. This time nine steps are depicted leading up to a raised area. The planting either side is indistinct but again there appears to be a rose arch at the top of the flight. In the foreground is a pedestal [see later].

ii) Herbaceous borders - planting scheme

In his account of South Bantaskine in "Scottish Gardens" Herbert Maxwell tells us something about the planting scheme in the flower garden. He states "...the gardens of this place rely on the commonest of materials - tulips, hyacinths, narcissus, arabis myosotis and wallflowers in the spring - lupins, roses, poppies, pansies and such like in the summer."

Similarly, the impressionistic pastels by Mary Wilson provide some clues as to the plantings [Available at <http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives].

- Pink roses appear in a herbaceous bed [P30681]
- A picture entitled "the Phlox border" shows pink and white phlox either side of a path with ox-eye daisies in the foreground [P30681]
- Oriental poppies on the right-hand side and iris on the left-hand side of a path feature in P30716. Probably the same bed is depicted in P 30697, described as Japanese poppies on the right-hand side and blue iris on the left-hand side and it is the same bed that is entitled "Oriental Poppies" in Garden Memories [1911].
- P30679 A path bordered by purple spire shaped flowers (lupins?).

One pastel [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives P30678] seems to be described perfectly in an article in the Falkirk Herald of 20.5.33 : - *"In the flower garden there is a special display of tulips of all varieties and colours, and these beautiful blooms are set off to the finest possible advantage. Beds of forget-me-nots and a remarkable early show of polyanthus are special features of this garden, the famed spirea bed of which is particularly pleasing this season. The rich herbaceous borders are prominent,"*

iii) Herbaceous borders - Ornamentation

At least two different urns/urns with fluted pedestals provide focal points in the flower garden. These feature in pastels P30673/75/76/77 and 30685/86/89/96. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives].

In one there is a pedestal in front of a rose clad pergola or archway. This is probably the same picture that appears in *Scottish Gardens* [1911] where the pedestal is again shown in front of two arches and a flight of nine steps. In that picture it is underplanted with red tulips. Similarly, in other pastels in the archives, what appears to be the same pedestal is underplanted with red tulips, orange azaleas [?] and blue delphiniums.

The colour plate in 'Garden Memories' entitled "A Garden is a lovesome thing, Got wot" shows what appears to be the same pedestal viewed from the opposite direction - towards the garden wall. In that picture white lilies are in flower to the left of the pedestal and red spire shaped flowers, possibly Spirea, are planted beneath the pedestal. There is a plant trained on the wall, and behind the wall the leaves of a rhododendron are clearly visible. In the foreground a path is bordered by low growing white bell shaped flowers.

In 1939 the Herald report also makes reference to ornaments in the garden: - "In the flower garden there are artistic displays of rare simplicity and beauty. With antique ornamental statuary as picturesque decorations, a fine array of flowers has been arranged in effective formations"

The 1933 Falkirk Herald article also comments "...On the luxuriant lawns of the estate the rhododendrons and azaleas are in fine flower."

The newspaper description is evocative of a pastel picture of a formal grassed area with a yew, rhododendrons and a stone balustrade. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk/archives/P30695>]. We also know from A O Cooke's 1920 description that the Dooocot was also sited on a formal grassed area

...Standing on shaven turf and backed by a wide-spreading cedar, with clumps of rhododendrons and azaleas in full bloom, this South Bantaskine doocot would be hard to match. And the last needed touch is given by the snowy fantail pigeons that for ever flutter round the roof and windows... or make a dazzling contrast with the emerald of the sunny lawn." [Cooke A O 1920]

The doocot together with the resident white doves are also the subjects of a pastel picture by Mary Wilson. The picture shows a stone birdbath or bird table in front of the structure. Seven stone steps lead up to the doocot from a grassed lawn. [<http://collections.falkirk.gov/P30688>]

The 1933 Falkirk Herald report states - "To the very hedges surrounding the paths of the estate, the foliage is trim and tidy and everywhere there is a gorgeous riot of colour." It is assumed that this is a reference to the paths through the shrubbery.

The Wilson sisters can be credited with the development of the rock and water gardens at South Bantaskine. In *Scottish Gardens* Herbert Maxwell comments on

"More ambitious...is the design which the ladies have undertaken in converting a disused quarry into an alpine garden. It will be a rockwork of Cyclopean scale. A vast vertical cliff of carboniferous sandstone...". He goes on to state that "vigilance [will be required] to prevent Aubrietia and Arenaria smothering such delicate growths as Androsace and Dianthus."

By 1920 a large rock and water garden had been developed. Cooke states that "The house itself is not a century old; and the adjoining quarry whence its stone was taken has been turned into a most charming water- and rock-garden, where a small stone Cupid smiles upon the scene." [Cooke A O 1920]

Mary Wilson's pastels depict a rock and water garden pool in several pictures. P30682/99 and 30700 [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk/archives>] provide various views of the so called "sentinels" [a pair of small umbrella shaped topiary trees] that flanked the foot of a flight of 13 stone steps to a small pool. The third step from the bottom is wider than the others and appears to be laid with crazy paving.



Illustration 22: Mary Wilson's pink and green pastel study of the rock and water garden in the "Fairy Glen"
 [Note "The Sentinels"]

The pool also features in a pastel held by the curator of the archives at Falkirk Community Trust and referred to as the "pink and green pastel study".

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> 1999-60-004]. It depicts the steps, the sentinels and water side planting of yellow iris and pink primulas, pink and white flowering shrubs [probably azaleas] and a low growing ground cover plant with blue flowers.

The extensive blue flowering plants are possibly either forget-me-nots or gentians. We know both were grown at South Bantaskine. However next to the pool it is more likely that they were forget-me-nots as gentians require well drained alpine conditions.

Probably the same pool features in P30680/83/90 [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives] where a low growing shrub with orange flowers [azaleas ?], yellow primulas and yellow iris are shown growing at the water's edge. Similarly, primulas and a flowering host are visible in the foreground of a picture of a stone slabbed bridge over a pond. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives P30703].

The Herald newspaper accounts of the 1930's identify two rock gardens - the so called "fairy glen" rock and water garden and a small rock garden.

The Herald also provides descriptions of the fairy glen rock and water garden in 1932, 33, 34 and 39. The last Garden Scheme report in 1939 states: -

"Then there is the famous rock garden. Fashioned from a disused quarry, this rock garden has come to be regarded as one of the most noteworthy in the country. With its mass of bloom and foliage, in which many varieties of rock plants are to be found, this garden has been aptly named a "fairy glen". The fountains, quaint statues set in restful nooks, the crazy paving and the rustic fascination of this man-made horticultural shrine, all combine to form an idyllic retreat."

A smaller rock garden is also mentioned in the Falkirk Herald reports of May 1933 and June 1939. The 1939 report states that: - "Outstanding in the small rock garden was an array of blue gentian, aubrietia, alyssum, saxifrage and cardamine. "

A path, bordered by white, pink and yellow flowers, that apparently led to "a rockery" is shown in Mary Wilson's pastel picture P30710 [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives].

Some of the open ground near the canal was cut with a scythe, possibly for hay, as depicted in another of Mary Wilson's pastel. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> archives P30691].

There is also 1930's photo of cattle grazing near the canal.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives P11405]

In a Falkirk Herald report about the Garden Scheme open day in 1933 a Mr McIntosh gets a special mention as follows: -

"Mr Adam McIntosh, the head gardener at [South] Bantaskine is again to be complimented on his work, as the gardens, not to mention the policies generally, reflect the greatest credit on both himself and his assistants." [Falkirk Herald 20.5.33 and 2.6.34]

There is also a photo of Mr Adam McIntosh at Quarry cottage in the archives.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives archive photos P12667]

1939-1958

For a brief period during the Second World War [WW2] South Bantaskine house was occupied by Polish troops. They or possibly the Home Guard are probably responsible for the South Bantaskine slit trenches, a single zig-zagging slit trench located on the edge of the small gully leading up to the 2nd Battle of Falkirk monument. [SMR 2165]

The Burgh Advisory Plan of 1944 [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk> A1577.009] indicates that South Bantaskine was considered suitable for either an area of coal workings or for housing. The issue came to a head in the 1945 Planning Inquiry.

In 1939 the Callendar Coal Company Ltd [The Company] had considered taking coal out from beneath South Bantaskine but WW2 intervened. Their lease, which effectively granted them permission to remove the coal, later expired. However, on 6th October 1944 the Coal Commission granted them a new lease.

On that occasion the Company also had to apply for planning permission that was refused by Falkirk Town Council. The decision was appealed and during the subsequent planning inquiry the Company's colliery manager asserted that there were six seams of what was referred to as Armadale main coal (which was inter-bedded with fire clay). Though two seams had been previously worked there remained at least 3 economically viable seams. It was estimated that the coal in the seams beneath South Bantaskine could produce 942,000 tons of coal over a 20-21 year period and would employ up to 300 men.

The Council favoured the development of the land for housing.

The Planning Inspector found in favour of the Company. [Falkirk Herald published 27.10.45 and SMR 604]

A 20th century plan of the coal working is kept in the archives.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives A1577.009]

In 1946 coal mining was nationalised in the UK and the coal reserves at South Bantaskine came under the control of the National Coal Board [NCB] who subsequently set about developing a colliery on the Estate.

In the archives there is a building warrant dated 4.4.1946 for pithead erections at South Bantaskine Mines. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives A997/1946/1357/2] and plans were drawn for pit head baths in 1953.

[<http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk>]

The OS Air Photo Mosaic of 1944-50 [NS 87 N.E.] [Stirlingshire] shows that pit head buildings and a conveyor over the canal were eventually built.

In around 1950 the NCB demolished the house. [SMR 604] and production at the colliery peaked in 1954 [Gillespie et al 2013].

Life for the NCB's South Bantaskine colliery was short lived because in December 1958 the NCB announced that the South Bantaskine colliery was one of 20 in Scotland that would be closed. [Falkirk Herald published 6.12.58]. The colliery closed the following year. [Gillespie et al 2013].

The estate eventually came into the ownership of the Council who were apparently responsible for the demolition of the Doocot in the early 1970's. [SMR and <http://collections.falkirk.gov.uk> P07149/50].

The estate became the subject of an Environmental Improvement scheme - largely the landscaping of the spoil heaps/bings from coal workings.

[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust Archives P50897].

It is now a well used, though in some places overgrown, public park.

6.0 Components of the Designed Landscape

The following designed landscape components still exist at South Bantaskine :

Category	Name used in the Report
Avenues, Drives and approaches	The Avenue [with yew glade] The E-W drive [with two bridges]
Residential features	Mansion house [site of] Ice house Site of the new stable block Elm cottage Site of probable Gardener's cottage and orchard
Pleasure gardens	The shrubbery The walled garden The lawns Pleasure walks
Policy parkland	Northern policy parkland Southern policy parkland
Policy woodland	
Industrial features	Viewfield quarry Middle quarry The U-shaped quarry Water mine wall and ditch N-W track, gully and reservoir Site of Corunna [also known as Red Row] Site of NCB colliery buildings
Slit trenches	

Early development

During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the quarries of South Bantaskine have been of economic interest with reserves of coal, clay and stone. The estate also produced valuable timber from its **policy woodlands**.

The **Policy woodlands, quarries, the water mine wall, N-W track, gully and reservoir**, the site of the miners' cottages at **Corunna/Red Row** and the **site of the NCB colliery** are all the remnants of its economic past.

6.1 Avenues, Drives and Approaches

6.1.1 The Avenue [with yew glade]

Grassom's 1817 map shows the estate accessible from Lochgreen Road, along a straight drive referred to in contemporary texts as The Avenue [Falkirk Community Trust archives : EN2055/Wilson/8].

Photographs from 1870 show the entrance to have had a central metal gate and individual gates for pedestrians either side of stone pillars. A single storey stone and slate Lodge was positioned on the west side of the drive and we know that this property had its own small garden from map evidence of the time. The surface of the drive was hard and either side there were mature trees. The Policy parkland either side of the Avenue was bounded by dilapidated timber fences. At the end of the straight section of the Avenue and on either side of the Avenue two semi-circular Yew glades are shown on maps from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Avenue is still accessible by car from Lochgreen Road and the entrance is still marked by a low, approximately 3 feet high, rubble stone wall capped by curved coping stones. The South Lodge and its garden is no longer in existence and we found no evidence of either, nor the entrance gates or pillars.



Illustration 23 : The entrance Avenue entrance from Lochgreen Road

Today the drive is metalled and in quite good repair. Either side along its length are mature rhododendrons, horse chestnut, beech, and sycamore trees. Some trees have been planted in matching pairs on either side.



Illustration 24 : The Avenue looking south [Note the paired oak trees]

Near to the end of the straight section of the Avenue there is a small tarred car park sited on the east side of the drive, the entrance to which is just before the remains of the Yew glade. Today the latter feature is only evidenced by mature yew trees on the eastern side. No trees on the western side or boundary enclosures to glades remain.



Illustration 25 : The Yew Glade on the eastern side of The Avenue

At this point along the Avenue the entrance to the cobbled track that runs along the southern wall of the Walled garden is marked by two low stone pillars, approximately 18 inches high and 9 inches in diameter. [see walled garden re the cobbled track].



Illustration 26 : One of a pair of stone pillars that stand either side of the entrance to the cobbled track

6.1.2 E-W drive

Though the E-W drive is not shown on Grassom's 1817 map it is likely that it too dates from the early nineteenth century. That assertion is based on the fact that it crosses the Union canal at Bridge 62, though only the canal is shown on Grassom's map.

We have made the assumption that Bridge No 62 is contemporaneous with the construction of the canal and its purpose was to maintain access via the E-W drive.

The 1860 OS sheet shows the E-W drive.

Photographic evidence from the 1870's shows the drive to have had a hard surface. A single storey slate and stone lodge - the North Lodge- and the wrought iron gated entrance lay close to Bridge No. 62. Along its route the boundaries of the drive were retained in part by a low stone wall and 6 strap estate fencing, though along some sections the drive is open to the policy woodland and parkland. These details appear to be also shown on contemporary maps. The quarry access bridge structures along its route are shown on the 1896 OS plan by which time a turning around point at the canal end of the drive is also shown.

Today the drive still drive provides direct access from the north of Falkirk town. It follows the same route and runs past the quarries and on up to the site of the mansion house crossing the access tracks of the Middle and U-Shaped quarries. [see back for descriptions of the access to the quarries].

Vehicular access can currently be gained over bridge 62 and into the Seagull Trusts car park. Thereafter vehicular access is blocked by a metal barrier.

The surface is currently metalled though it is breaking up in places to reveal a stone hardcore surface beneath. Either side the drive edges are retained by a narrow, say 3 inch, concrete lip. The drive has Grahamston Iron Works drain covers and manhole covers and the two bridges and triangular turning

point near Bridge No. 62 are still in existence. Mature lime, horse chestnut, sycamore, yew trees and rhododendron bushes fringe the drive along its length.

At the U-shaped quarry [and later "fairy glen" rockery] the drive passes over a 30ft high stone bridge and sweeps up to the site of the mansion house.



Illustration 27 : The E-W Drive and bridge over the "Fairy Glen"

The Ice House

The ice house has not been dated but was presumably constructed for use at the time of the first residence in the early part of the nineteenth century. Though not marked on any map a footbridge over the burn that runs next to the ice house is shown in the vicinity of the ice house on the 1896 map, though not on later maps. This may indicate that the ice house was in use at that time.

The ice house is still in existence and lies on the western side of the boundary burn about 75 feet above the canal side path. It is located just beyond and to the west of the junction of the canal side path with the path running up to the Monument. The structure is in a semi-derelict condition. It is an approximately 8 feet high arched brick structure, largely buried beneath ground level. At its entrance is a stone pillar which bears evidence of metal hinges or possibly a latch fastening. Internally it is filled with water to a depth of approximately 4 feet.

It is described in the SMR74 wherein it is suggested that ice was cut from the canal. We found evidence of a small pool to the rear, southern side of the ice house. Earth appears to have been excavated to form the pool and mounded up behind and possibly round the ice house. Presumably in the early part of the nineteenth century [i.e. predating the canal] ice was cut from the burn side pool.



Illustration 28 : The ice house

6.2 Nineteenth century residential estate

6.2.1 The early 19th century

With its elevated position and far reaching views South Bantaskine presented its owners with an ideal opportunity to develop an impressive residential estate in addition to its income generating potential.

Initially a mansion house and drive or **avenue** were built in the early part of the nineteenth century, certainly before 1817. It is likely that the yew glade, E-W drive, an ice house, an original stable block with ornate doocot, formal pond, shrubbery, walled garden and policy parkland were developed at the same time.

6.2.2 Remodelling of the residential estate by John Wilson

By the mid 1800's the estate had come into the ownership of a coalmaster, John Wilson. He was newly married and soon set about redesigning the house and grounds for his young family. By 1861-2 the house had been completely rebuilt and the two lodges probably also date from that time. Formal lawns used for croquet, tennis, badminton and bowls and a number of cottages for staff had also been built on the estate.

Initially the original stables were retained but by 1896 these too had been demolished save the ornate doocot. A new stable block was constructed further away from the house, accessed along an extension to the E-W drive via the front of the mansion house. We also know that a conservatory and one greenhouse were in existence in the 1870's.

6.2.3 Site of the new stable block

The new stables were sited adjacent to the west wall of the walled garden further away from the house. They had a U-shaped footprint and several photos from the 19th and 20th century show the details of their layout and construction of stone with a pitched slate roof that was in part supported by roughly

hewn tree trunks. Within the stable courtyard there was a mounting block and a trough and water barrel, presumably next to the pump marked on the 1896 map.

Access to the new stables was either along an earlier cobbled track that ran along the southern wall of the walled garden [see back to walled garden] or via a newly constructed extension to the E-W drive that ran around the front of the mansion house.

Today the stone flagged central courtyard of the new stable block remains along with concrete pads adjoining the walled garden. Each flag is rectangular, approximately 15 inches x 9 inches and in total the courtyard is at least 12 flags wide. The concrete pads and a low rubble wall adjoining the western wall of the walled garden possibly mark the position and division of some of the stables.



Illustration 29 : Concrete pads and remains of the new stable block adjoining the western wall of the Walled Garden

The position of the original pump is noticeably boggy and the water is stained with rust.



Illustration 30: Site of pump at the site of the new stable block

The earlier access track leading to the new stable block is still visible and is constructed of small cobbles [see back under walled garden]. It is still flanked by trees, mostly oak, and rhododendrons on its southern side, beneath which runs a field drain. We could not place the position of the original pond that sat next to the track.



Illustration 31: Cobbled access track to the new stable block



Illustration 32 : Detail of cobbles

The line of the extension to the E-W drive is marked in the northern policy parklands by a shallow depression.

6.2.4 Elm cottage

At present a holiday cottage, Elm Cottage is located close to the U-shaped quarry and to the site of the original house and stables. We know that there was a cottage on the estate called Elm Cottage but the site of the existing Elm Cottage does not appear to be the same as that of a cottage shown on 19th or early 20th century maps. It is therefore likely that the existing cottage is not the original Elm Cottage.

The current cottage is a modern single storey property and it is used as a holiday home.

Today all that is left of John Wilson's remodelling are the sites of **the lawns**, the site of **the new stable block**, **pleasure walks** and the possible site of one of the cottages, **Elm cottage**.

The site of the probable Gardener's cottage and orchard

Close to the current car park and the remnants of the Yew Glade is the area of the probable Gardener's cottage. A concreted area may mark the location of the building and there are three small fruit trees

[approximately 12-15 feet high] close to the concrete pad. These are in a row and we identified the three as being an apple, a cherry and a crab apple.



Illustration 33: Crab apple tree within the site of the orchard

6.3 Pleasure Gardens

6.3.1 The Shrubbery

The shrubbery is probably the area delineated in red around three sides of the walled garden on the nineteenth century mine map. The area most probably included the area next to the house where there was a formal square shaped pond and paths shown on the 1860's OS sheet. By 1896 the paths in the shrubbery appear to have been re-laid in a circular pattern. George Glendinning's 1879 valuation refers to "a well laid out shrubbery surrounding the mansion house." [Falkirk Community Trust archives EN132/Wilson/24]. Later twentieth century descriptions refer to azaleas and rhododendrons. Maxwell 1911] notes in particular the presence of *Rhododendron Thomsoni* in the gardens of South Bantaskine.

By 1913 though no paths are shown in the shrubbery the OS sheet clearly shows a circular pattern of small trees/shrubs.

Today the shrubbery is overgrown. Some specimen trees remain in the area identified as the shrubbery including a mature cedar, larch, several mature yews - both with dark and golden foliage - and a row of three large weeping horse chestnut trees with trunks of 3 feet diameter. The area is laid to grass.



Illustration 34: Shrubbery looking east



Illus 33 : Specimen cedar in the Shrubbery

There is a low north facing bank, approximately 2 feet high, that runs about 30 feet in front of and parallel to the northern wall of the walled garden.

There is photographic evidence from the 1870's of at least one low bank in the garden. It appears around part of the croquet lawn. A bank with seven steps is also shown in front of the Dooct in a pastel by Mary Wilson dating from probably the late nineteenth early twentieth centuries.

6.3.2 Pleasure walks

Two paths that lead down to the canal started life as access routes from the quarries to the Union Canal, as shown on the 1860 map. There is photographic evidence from the 1870's that the access to the "fairy glen/U shaped quarry" was used as a pleasure walks and the route into the middle quarry may also have evolved into a path through the policy woodlands.



Illustration 36 : The Pleasure walk to the canal from the "Fairy Glen" [originally a quarry track]

There were other paths marked on the nineteenth century plans alongside the canal and through the policy woodland below the house and there are several photographs of woodland pleasure walks dating from the 1870's which have been impossible to locate.

At the present the quarry paths remain, though some are more overgrown than others. All the paths are of earth and some, particularly those leading to the quarries, are muddy in places.

6.3.3 The walled garden

The walled garden is probably one the oldest parts of the garden to have survived. It may have been built with the original house, though like the stables it only appears on the OS sheet of 1860 map for the first time.

It is show on early 19th century mining maps, though the precise date is unknown. On all the maps the garden has a square shaped footprint and, on the earliest mine maps, it is shown to be subdivided, though subdivisions are only shown on the 1860 OS sheet and not on later OS maps because it was not the practice of the OS to record the internal layouts of gardens.

i) Access and entrances to the walled garden

The main pedestrian access to the walled garden was gained from the house, across the shrubbery and through a stone arch and wrought iron gate in the northern wall. On an early nineteenth century mine map access is show in three places - the main archway, an entrance opposite this in the southern wall and a third entrance in the NE corner.

Later maps are not at a scale that is sufficient to show fine details such as entrance gates and so it has been impossible to track the evolution of changes.

However, we do know that a conservatory was later built next to the path between the walled garden and house as there is both late nineteenth century map and photographic evidence of its existence .

ii) Subdivisions and raised area within the walled garden

We know from the mine maps of the early nineteenth century and the 1860 OS sheet that the garden was subdivided by paths. Photographic evidence from 1870's and later pastel pictures indicate that at least some of garden was terraced, the upper level probably about 4-5 feet above the lower level,

equivalent to a flight of 8-9 steps. The upper level appears from one photograph to be an area of raspberry production and the lower level cultivated as a flower garden.

iii) Herbaceous borders - planting scheme

An article from the Falkirk Herald in 1858 lists some species that were in flower [presumably in the walled garden] in January of that year including roses, rhododendrons, wallflowers and pansies.

Maxwell's book (1911) records plantings including tulips, hyacinths, narcissus, arabis myosotis and wallflowers in the spring and lupins, roses, poppies, pansies in the summer.

Mary Wilson's pastels and later newspaper reports of the 1930's give a wealth of detail of the herbaceous planting in the borders at the time. This included a "famed spiraea bed" and a "phlox border", and roses, ox-eye daisies, tulips, white lilies, oriental poppies, blue iris, lupins [?], forget-me-nots and polyanthus.

iv) Herbaceous borders - ornamentation

Similarly, Mary Wilson's pastels and the 1930's newspaper reports make reference to pedestals, statues and arches.

Unfortunately, we were not able to gain access to the interior of the walled garden. Consequently, our survey notes are limited by what we could observe from the gateways.

i) Current access and entrances

A cobbled wagon or coach track way runs externally along the southern wall of the walled garden bounded by a line of mature rhododendrons and a field drain on the southern policy parkland side. The cobbles are quite small, say 3-4 inches in diameter, and have been tamped down to form a level surface. Presumably that track is an original early nineteenth century route that dates from the time of the construction of the walled garden.

Today the walls of the garden are still pretty much intact, as are the main archway and wrought iron gate, though they are in need of repair. The garden walls are constructed of roughly hewn stone and are approximately 1 foot wide and 10 feet high. Unlike the other two walls, the south and east facing walls are also lined with brick, painted white, and the east facing wall has some original metal vine rings that once provided support for climbing plants.



Illustration 37 : Arched entrance to the Walled Garden

Vehicular access into the walled garden is possible through widened gateways in the NW and NE corners of the western and eastern walls. These are modern metal gates and are locked. No evidence was found for there ever having been a gate in the southern wall, though there is evidence of a blocked-up window in the western wall.



Illustration 38 : The wide track across the Walled Garden between the widened gateways.

ii) Current subdivisions and raised/terraced area

The wide track divides the walled garden into a narrow 4-5-foot-wide bed adjacent to the northern wall and a larger cultivated terrace or raised area on the south side of the garden above the path and retained by an approximately 4-5 feet high rubble stone wall.



Illustration 39 : The raised/terraced cultivated area within the Walled Garden

The walled garden was used by Falkirk Council as a plant nursery until it was leased to the Falkirk Allotment Society in recent years.

iii) and iv) Current herbaceous borders - plantings and ornamentation

We saw no evidence of the original herbaceous borders, excepting the bed noted above running along the northern wall and vine rings, as also noted above. However, as we were only able to view the garden from the gates our observations were restricted.

6.3.4 The Lawns

On the eastern side of the house there was a lawn used for croquet and badminton in the 1870's.

To the east of the site of the mansion is a flat roughly rectangular area that by 1870 had been grassed and was being used as a tennis court.

Today the site of the tennis court appears to be the overgrown and the croquet lawn was most probably located in the vicinity of the current Elm cottage.

A 1933 edition of the Falkirk Herald newspaper describes lawns fringed with azaleas and rhododendrons and paths bounded by trim hedges.

6.4 The Policy Parkland

There are two main areas of Policy parkland.

The northern policy parkland comprises the ground around the original mansion house that was cleared by the date of publication of Grassom's map in 1817.

The southern policy parkland comprises the grassed areas either side of the Avenue and a shelter belt of trees along the frontage onto Lochgreen Road.

The northern policy parkland is shown on maps to be characterised by specimen trees, though these appear to have been reduced in number by the twentieth century. On an early nineteenth century mine

map two trees in particular appear to have been circled in red. The nineteenth century OS sheets appear to show individual trees, some of which have been clearly planted in a N-S trending line



Illustration 40 : N-S trending line of trees within the northern policy parkland

During our survey we identified one of the original specimen trees, close to the walled garden. It is a weeping Horse chestnut, a species we also noted in the shrubbery and along the Avenue.

The southern policy parklands have remained as cleared ground since the first evidence of their existence in 1817. Unlike the northern policy parkland, they do not appear to have been planted with specimen trees.



Illustration 41 : The southern policy parkland looking south east

On the 1913 OS sheets a field gateway is shown in the wall against Lochgreen Road. It faces a gateway near Corunna/Red Row on the opposite side of Lochgreen Road and would have permitted the movement of stock animals across the road and onto the southern grazing areas of the estate. Furthermore from 1884-1906 “policy fields on the avenue” were leased to Mr Aitken, possibly also indicating the use of the southern policy parkland for grazing.

Today the southern policy grounds comprise fairly level grassed areas with clumps of sedges indicating that they are in part quite waterlogged. Informal footpaths are mown through the rough grass to the west of the Avenue. There is still a shelter belt of mature and self-seeded trees along the whole length of the Lochgreen road frontage. The gateway onto Lochgreen road remains and as indicated on the maps is positioned opposite an original wrought iron gate and the raised track next to the site of Corunna/Red Row

6.5 Policy Woodland

Originally the hill on which South Bantaskine sits was completely wooded. When the first mansion house was built in the early part of the 19th century the wood around the house was felled and further areas were cleared over the course of the next hundred years to make way for policy parkland.

Timber was valuable as evidenced by an 1879 valuation that put a figure of £1571 on 44.895 acres of timber on the estate. [<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Environment Trust archives EN132/Wilson/24].

Map evidence indicates that the woodland had been thinned considerably and some of the specimen trees in the northern policy grounds were felled by the middle of the last century.

Today slopes on the northern side of the estate are overgrown with self-seeded deciduous trees and rhododendrons. The woodland is still crossed by the original paths, some of which have been incorporated into the John Muir Way.

6.6 Industrial Features

6.6.1 The Quarries

Three quarries appear on the 1860 map :-

The Viewfield Quarry - This quarry is the most easterly and lies in the area marked originally as coke ovens, a coal pit and brick works but later marked as a quarry.

A Middle Quarry - This quarry was accessed from the Union Canal along a **quarry access track** that goes under a bridge along the E-W Drive.

The U-Shaped Quarry - This quarry is the most westerly of the three and it is also accessed from the Union Canal along a **quarry access track** that goes under a bridge along the E-W Drive.

Originally coal seams interbedded with fire clay were quarried but by the 1800's the sandstone beds that lay above and below those layers were probably being quarried for building materials for the construction of local canals and railways.

On the 1896 OS sheet the quarries were marked as "Old Quarries" and so can it can be reasonably assumed that at that time they were worked out.

In the early 20th century one of the quarries was developed as a rock and water garden and by the 1930's it was being referred to as the "Fairy Glen" rock and water garden. It is most likely that it was the U-shaped quarry. [see on under Rock gardens]

The Middle quarry has been largely filled in and its entrance under a bridge is blocked, though the end of the bridge can still be seen. Presumably the quarry was filled with spoil from the colliery workings and later these were landscaped as part of the environmental improvements.

Overgrown ditches mark the sites of the original quarry access tracks from the U-shaped quarry and the Middle quarry down to the Union Canal. They were probably used as pleasure walks in later years. The

stone quarry face can still be seen in Viewfield quarry, but in the U shaped the quarry face is covered in vegetation, mostly ivy. Both quarries are generally overgrown with self-seeded trees, ivy and rhododendrons and the bottom of both are quite muddy and poorly drained in places.



Illustration 42 : The "Fairy Glen" viewed from the bridge

The possible site of Quarry Cottage in the U-shaped quarry was identified, though there are no remains except the level area marking the probable site of a cottage garden. We understand from local residents that the U-shaped quarry incorporated the Council's "keep fit" course during the 1980's and some pieces of wooden outdoor gym equipment remain, though they are in poor condition.

6.6.2 The Water Mine Wall and Ditch

A water mine emerged at or very close to the site of the Air Shaft marked on the OS 1860 map. It is also shown, together with a curved wall on a 19th century mine map.[<http://www.collections.falkirk.gov.uk>. Falkirk Community Trust archives A1803.070].

The route of the water mine from the shaft is also shown on the mine map. Though the mine map is undated must have been drawn before the house was remodelled in 1861-2 as the mine map shows an earlier house footprint.

The curved water mine wall is still in existence today and is built of stone rubble with a ditch running along its northern side. The ditch has a depth of approximately 3 feet.



Illustration 43 : The Water mine wall

6.6.3 N-W Track, Gully and Reservoir

The early nineteenth century mine map indicates that the water mine discharged in a gully close to the Union canal, possibly near the later “springs” and “ Well and reservoir” indicated on 1899 and 1921 OS maps respectively. A track trending N-W which terminates at that gully is shown on the 1860 OS sheet but not on later maps, though its southern retaining wall is marked.

Alternatively, a second gully may represent the outlet from the water mine. It is shown on the canal bank to the east of the first gully on the 1860 OS sheet, but not the later 1899 edition. A circular “outlet” is shown in the gully.

We located the route of the N-W trending track. It starts close to the “Fairy glen” bridge and is retained by a low, approximately 3ft, stone rubble wall. The surface of the track is of soft earth, in some places very boggy and poorly drained. At the canal end of the track is the partially buried reservoir. The entrance is almost completely blocked but we were able to take photographs of the interior that show the sides are built of roughly hewn stone blocks retained by metal [iron ?] supports. The end of the reservoir is blocked by a brick wall. The reservoir is filled with debris and water and has a depth of about 3 ft.

The area in front and to the west of the reservoir is very poorly drained [possibly around the site of the well ?].

We did not find evidence of the second gully.

6.6.4 Site of Corunna [later Red Row]

John Wilson named a row of miners’ cottages on the southern side of the Lochgreen Road Corunna after the 1809 battle of the same name. It seems likely that this was in recognition of an ancestor who fought in the battle. By 1896 the cottages had been renamed Red Row. They appear to have been demolished during the ownership of the estate by the NCB, along with other cottages, the mansion house and stables.

The site of Corunna is a grassed field. A raised access track from Lochgreen Road is still in evidence and its entrance onto Lochgreen Road faces a secondary entrance onto the main South Bantaskine estate.

6.6.5 Site of NCB Colliery Buildings

In 1946, following a planning inquiry and the nationalisation of the coal industry the NCB developed a colliery close to the Middle quarry, in the vicinity of the current Seagull Trust car park and Bridge 62.

Coal was transported from the area of the Middle quarry on a narrow-gauge railway and then over the canal on a conveyor to freight trains waiting on the tracks. The colliery was closed in 1959.

There is still evidence of coal mining activities in this area. We found pieces of coal on the surface of the banks of the path to the Middle Quarry. Narrow gauge train tracks still cross the Seagull Trust car park close to Bridge 62 and above the car park there are a number of stepped brick walls topped with concrete

slabs, a steep tarred access road and flights of steps which it is understood are the remnants of the pit head buildings. The walls and access road are in good repair.

6.7 20th Century Developments by the Wilson Sisters

6.7.1 Rock Gardens

John Wilson died in 1883 but three of his daughters lived on in the mansion house and made further changes to the designed landscape. Between 1911 and 1920 three of the Wilson sisters developed one of the redundant quarries as a large rock and water garden - the so-called **Fairy Glen rock and water garden**. Circumstantial and anecdotal evidence weighs in favour of the Fairy Glen having been located in the U-shaped quarry.

They employed the help of a resident gardener, Mr McIntosh who is photographed at Quarry Cottage though he may have lived at the aptly named **Gardener's cottage**. We have not been able to pin-point the location of the Gardener's cottage, though on the 1913 OS sheet a small house is shown for the first time close to the Yew Glade on the eastern side of the Avenue. A greenhouse and enclosed area, [garden?] is also indicated on the map together with an area of regularly planted trees, perhaps an orchard.

According to 1930's reports there were two rock gardens at South Bantaskine, though it has not been possible to locate these definitely.

The "Fairy Glen" had been designed but not built at the date of Herbert Maxwell's book in 1911. We know that the "Fairy Glen" was located in a disused quarry with a sandstone cliff face. [Maxwell H 1911 and Falkirk Herald 1939].

The closest quarry to the house is the U-shaped quarry though the Viewfield quarry also has a sandstone cliff face. Map evidence shows that both quarries were disused by 1896 and by 1913 both had ponds and had been populated by trees.

In 1920 Cooke refers to a water and rock garden in a quarry *adjoining* the house, so it seems most probable that the U-shaped quarry was the likely location of the "Fairy Glen". Circumstantial evidence is also in its favour - it can be accessed from two points along the E-W drive, which would have afforded a circular route through the rock garden and its profile is valley or glen shaped. And finally, a local resident recalls that there was once a sign on the bridge above the quarry indicating a path to the "Fairy glen".

By 1913 the quarry was wooded but it featured a small enclosure with a pond and we know from Herbert Maxwell's account, Mary Wilson's pastels and the Falkirk Herald that the Fairy Glen had water features including fountains as well as steps down to a pond with a stone slabbed bridge, the topiary sentinels, "statues in nooks" [including a Cupid according to Cooke in his 1920 account] and "crazy paving". The planting scheme on the waterside comprised hostas, yellow iris, primulas and probably forget-me-nots.

The reports from the 1930's provide a list of the alpine plants in a second smaller rock garden. No indications of the location of the second smaller rock garden was found.

At the present time the "Fairy glen/U shaped quarry" is very overgrown with ivy and self-seeded trees. No evidence of the original planting, pleasure wall, pond, steps or ornamentations were found, though due to its relative inaccessibility there may be evidence of the steps and pond buried beneath the dense overgrowth. The "Fairy glen" can still be accessed from either of the original points. Under foot is it very

muddy in places and is the site of redundant “keep fit” equipment placed there by the Council in the 1980’s as indicated above.

Later 20th Century Changes

Slit trenches

A single zig-zagging slit trench can still be seen close to the burn leading up to the 2nd Battle of Falkirk monument. It is presumed to have been constructed by either Polish troops stationed in the mansion house or members of the Home Guard. [SMR2165][GR 8687 7909]

The trench is approximately 1 to 1.5 feet deep and 4-5 feet across. It is partially covered by vegetation.



Illustration 44 : The slit trenches

7. 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 (1996) 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 of South Bantaskine

South Bantaskine house was a typical mansion of a wealthy industrialist of the late nineteenth century. The estate comprised a baronial styled house, doocot, stables, walled garden, parkland with

specimen trees, and ice-house and a rock garden. Physically much has been lost but the parts that remain still have intrinsic, contextual and associative significance.

Intrinsic

Intrinsically the largely complete walls and main entrance of the walled garden, the existence of some of the paired tree planting along the Avenue and the specimen trees within the parkland and the existence of the ice house are of local merit.

Perhaps even more significant is the wealth of detailed evidence of planting and ornamentation provided by an extensive photographic and pictorial archive for a period of approximately 60-70 years from 1870 to the early part of the twentieth century.

The original development and subsequent recycling of the quarries, bridges and paths leading to/from the quarries as a rock garden, a drive and pleasure walks are also of intrinsic value. They provide an excellent example of the development from beginning to end of the exploitation of mineral resources on a country estate in the 19th century, as do the remains of late nineteenth century coal mining installations.

The provision of water is essential. The original water mine outlet, repurposed as a source of water and reservoir by later generations is not a feature found frequently. At South Bantaskine there is cartographic evidence and the original early nineteenth century water mine wall remains.

Furthermore, slit trenches that may have been constructed by Polish troops billeted at South Bantaskine or the Home Guard can still be seen. Again, a feature rarely found on country estates, albeit quite close to an urban area.

The legibility of South Bantaskine's developmental sequence, both as a country estate and on-site industry is strong, given the wide range of cartographic, documentary, photographic and pictorial evidence locally available.

Contextual

With regard to its contextual value, the estate was one of a number developed or sustained on the back of the wealth created from the mining of coal around Falkirk and the local Carron iron foundry business. South Bantaskine played an important part in that industrial history along with its use of both the canal and the railway to transport coal and stone from its mines and quarries. It was at the heart of the development of transport links, being bordered on the north by Union Canal and the railway track north of the canal.

Associative

South Bantaskine has two important associations. Firstly, the grounds form part the site of the 2nd Battle of Falkirk, a fact that was not lost by John Wilson who was a descendant of the Drummonds who fought in the Battle. He commemorated the link to the Drummonds both in the commissioning of a stained-glass window for South Bantaskine house and in naming the miners' cottages 'Corunna' to commemorate the battle of Corunna during the Peninsular War in which the Drummonds also fought.

South Bantaskine can also claim a place in garden history on two counts. Its gardens were the subject of several pastels painted by Mary Wilson who illustrated *Scottish Gardens* for Sir Herbert Maxwell. Maxwell was a Tory politician. In addition he was President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (1900-1913), and Chairman of the National Library of Scotland (1925–1932).^[6] He was the chairman of Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) from its inception in 1908 until 1934. He visited South Bantaskine and devoted three pages of his book to a description of its gardens. Secondly, the estate was one of the first houses to open its grounds under Scotland’s Gardens Scheme in the 1930's.

Cultural Significance

Given the ample evidence of intrinsic industrial development and its contextual value, particularly with regard to industrial change, South Bantaskine has regional significance. Its proximity to the site of the Battle of Falkirk (1298) and the Battle of Falkirk Muir (1746) adds to that significance, as does the link with Sir Herbert Maxwell through Mary Wilson who was born at Bantaskine and became a known pastelist with a particular interest in gardens and their plants. South Bantaskine is now a community park, along with North Bantaskine. It continues to have local significance because of the amenities of a cultural interest on offer to visitors.

8.0 Sources consulted

8.1 Historic maps

<i>Sheet</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Cartographer</i>
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	Military Survey of Scotland	1747-55	General William Roy
SW sheet	To the Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Stirling	1817	John Grassom
XXX.7	Stirling sheet, 25-inch (1st edition)	Surveyed 1860, published 1864	Ordnance Survey

XXX.NE	Stirlingshire sheet, 6 inch (2nd edition)	Surveyed 1896, published 1899	Ordnance Survey
XXX.NE	Stirlingshire sheet, 6 inch (3rd edition)	Revised 1913, published 1921	Ordnance Survey
XXX.NW	Stirlingshire sheet, 6 inch (4th edition)	Probable publication 1946	Ordnance Survey
		1956	Ordnance Survey

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

8.2 Aerial photographs

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