Mauldslie Castle Estate

Conservation Management Plan

Prepared by LUC in association with Christopher Dingwall and Donald Rodger Associates
September 2013
**Project Title:** Mauldslie Castle Estate Conservation Management Plan

**Client:** Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

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<td>17.7.2013</td>
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1 Introduction

1.1 This Conservation Management Plan for Mauldslie Castle Estate designed landscape has been prepared by LUC, Christopher Dingwall and Donald Rodgers, on behalf of the Rural Development Trust in partnership with Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) and South Lanarkshire Council (SLC).

1.2 The purpose of the Conservation Management Plan is to provide a strategic vision for the conservation of the designed landscape and a framework for future management activities.

1.3 The Conservation Management Plan has been prepared to support the implementation of the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Landscape Partnership Programme for the Clyde and Avon Valleys. The main aim of the Partnership is to conserve and enhance the landscape of the Clyde and Avon Valleys, which has been recognised as an Area of Great Landscape Value within the planning policies of both North and South Lanarkshire Councils. The Partnership Scheme can bring additional funding to enhance and maintain designed landscapes such as Mauldslie that contribute to the scenic value and landscape character of the Landscape Partnership area.

1.4 The development of the Conservation Management Plan within the wider programme of the CAVLP has provided an important opportunity to streamline with the vision, aims and objectives of the Landscape Partnership. This Conservation Management Plan contributes to project proposals throughout the Landscape Partnership delivery programme, including identifying opportunities for community engagement and involvement in the management of the Landscape Partnership area.

1.5 The CMP will be used to inform the development of a Woodland Management Plan and Recreational Plan for the Mauldslie Castle Estate, and identifies means by which volunteers and members of the local community can become actively involved in the development and implementation of management actions aimed at sustaining the woodland resource for the future. The CMP also considers funding and match funding opportunities that would enable the work identified to be undertaken.

1.6 The study area for the CMP is shown on Figure 1.
2 Understanding the Asset

An Overview

2.1 Mauldslie Castle Estate has a long and interesting history, and today’s landscape holds significant heritage interest, even though several components of the historic landscape have been lost. Much of today’s designed landscape has its origins in the late 18th century as the setting for the Robert Adam designed ‘castle’ for the 5th Earl of Hyndford, however Timothy Pont’s map of c. 1590 indicates the presence and form of the original Malds-ly Castle two centuries earlier on a similar site within the floor of the Clyde Valley. The parkland in the valley floor was also once the site of St Luke’s Church Cistercian Abbey.

2.2 We are fortunate in that the 18th and 19th century Mauldslie Castle was a prominent and picturesque feature of the Clyde Valley captured in etchings, paintings and photographs over its 142 year lifespan. These images demonstrate how the Robert Adam’ symmetrical two storey building was later extended and modified through the addition of a large tower wing on its south-eastern end. They also show how the castle and nearby elegant Stables were intended to be viewed together as a composition in the landscape. The designed landscape was relatively simple and picturesque, utilising and enhancing the valley’s topography to provide extensive parklands around the castle in the lower ground, with woodland on the steepest valley slopes and on eminences to frame and backdrop the castle. The castle itself was subtly elevated above the valley floor by grass terraces which are still discernible.

Images of Mauldslie Castle set with a backdrop of wooded slopes

2.3 Interestingly the main access was to the north/ back of the castle allowing the front to have a direct relationship with the landscape. This access route remains today although a modern house now occupies the site of the original forecourt. The main drive allowed access to the castle from within and above the valley, via today’s Mauldslie Bridge and the East Lodge respectively. The lodge houses at these entrances are two of several remaining estate buildings, and are characteristic landmarks of the designed landscape. Other buildings of heritage merit include the Stables, as previously mentioned, Mauldslie Mains and other small lodge buildings. Until recently the south eastern part of the designed landscape held the remains of a distinctive walled garden ringed by an oval framework of paths. This feature and its associated walls, glasshouses and ancillary buildings have now been cleared to allow the development of large contemporary villas with paddocks. Extensive earthworks have been undertaken, but a number of the old parkland specimen trees have been retained.
2.4 Mauldslie Castle was demolished in 1935 and later in the 20th century a sewage works was developed in the valley floor, within the parkland directly below (south-west of) the former castle site. This development was followed by the introduction of screen planting in the form of mostly broadleaf woodland blocks which are now dense stands of semi mature trees. Several of these stands contain a high proportion of birch which appears somewhat incongruous within a designed landscape where historic plantations are dominated by sycamore, oak, ash, elm and lime.

2.5 The former parkland areas also retain numerous veteran trees many of which are large individual specimens (a mixture of oak, sycamore, lime, ash, horse and sweet chestnut). Some of these are located along the main drive and others are distributed informally within the parkland areas. Where the former parkland is grazed, the old trees are protected by recently constructed timber guards, in other areas some trees have suffered from fire-setting and vandalism and others have become enveloped within thickets of younger trees. These veteran trees are important characteristic features of the landscape and several are huge well shaped specimens. Given their size and obvious antiquity it is possible that several trees predate the Robert Adam castle and are of dendrological significance. Their contribution to the scenery is also complemented by their biodiversity value. It is evident that several veteran trees have been lost and others appear in decline. This raises the question of succession and of how the landscape would change when it loses its distinctive specimens within the parkland areas.

2.6 Stands of exotic conifers are also important features of the designed landscape, most notably to the west of the former castle site and to the north along the main drive, where a grove of Wellingtonias and other evergreens make a significant impact. Elsewhere pines are present in the wider woodlands but not in high numbers. They nevertheless provide additional colour and contrast particularly during winter. Evergreen understorey is also present mostly in the form of Portuguese laurel, *Rhododendron*, holly and yew. These create strong visual barriers and reinforce spaces, but in places the plants have become overgrown, stifling other understorey plants and reducing potential biodiversity. Ideally management would achieve the appropriate balance of ornament, spatial definition and biodiversity.
2.7 In the higher parts of the former estate (to the north-east) the landscape becomes more agricultural and retains a distinctive rectilinear pattern of fields with wide field boundaries, some of which have scrub or trees. Comparison with historic plans indicates that these would have been shelterbelts, but that there has been some degradation and loss of integrity with the loss of trees along several of these boundaries. Another notable change is the partial loss of the distinctive intersection of field and shelterbelts, in which the field corners were chamfered.

2.8 Some of the plantation woodlands connecting with the valley sides contain a high proportion of sycamore and these may warrant management towards greater biodiversity value, especially where they abut the more native woodlands of the tributary valleys.

2.9 In the valley the former parkland areas were historically enclosed by distinctive metal strap fencing. This remains in several locations but is generally damaged and in need of repair or reinstatement. Some prominent sections have been replaced by post & wire fencing e.g. along the east side of the main drive, which detracts from the historic character of the parkland. This is also the case on the valley slopes and other parts of the estate, where evidence of metal strap fencing is present, but rarely used as the functional field boundary.

2.10 Mauldslie Estate contains some important access routes, not least the Clyde Walkway which follows the river edge and links with the wider public access network. The Clyde Walkway has some interpretive facilities and signage along its route, but with the exception of the parking site
adjacent to Mauldslie Bridge, most signs are damaged and carry no information. The Clyde Walkway path is un-metalled and very informal in nature. Its composition varies from mud track to blaes/ash and crushed stone. It has been locally repaired in a few places and overall has an informal appearance that may be considered to be inconsistent with a major strategic footpath. It also has timber boardwalk sections at the eastern edge of the designed landscape which are in sound condition at present, but which include numerous steps which are a constraint to the less mobile. Other access routes are mostly along the historic drives although a number of desire lines have emerged in the NNR woodland. Public access is generally discouraged by access along the ‘private’ route that is the main drive. Historically, Mauldslie had an extensive footpath network in the designed landscape, but it is apparent that some of these have been lost in the area of the former walled garden and others in woodland are no longer legible.

Access routes through the estate

2.11 The Mauldslie Castle Estate designed landscape is now under the ownership and management of several parties. It is occupied by residential properties, the sewage works, and has areas under agricultural use or woodland management. Some areas have received limited maintenance.

2.12 The following sections set out different aspects of the asset in more detail.

History

2.13 The history of the estate that can be derived from documentary and map evidence includes:
- Early history to 1793;
- New House, New Landscape : c.1792-1850;
- New Owner, New Development : 1850-1933;
- Fragmentation and Decline : 1933 to 2013.

Early History to 1793

2.14 Apart from occasional mentions of the Forest, Park or Barony of Mauldslie to be found in the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, dating back to the 13th century, the first documentary evidence of the house and estate is to be found on Timothy Pont’s manuscript map of Glasgow and the County of Lanark – Pont 34 (c.1595). This depicts ‘Malds-ly’ as a four or five storey tower house, presumably occupied by the Maxwell family at that time. Although there is no indication of associated enclosure or planting, it is probable that a house of this status would have possessed gardens and orchards. P. Sansum et al (2005) go so far as to suggest that features such as Jock’s Gill would have been wooded at this time, possibly managed as coppice.

2.15 Timothy Pont’s map is likely to have been the source for Joan Blaeu’s map of ‘Glottiana Praefectura Inferior’ or the ‘Nether Ward of Clyds-dail’, first published in his Atlas Novus (1654). This, too, marks ‘Maldsly’ as a building of some status, possibly within an enclosure, but without other environmental detail. That said, trees are marked on the west bank of the Clyde around the nearby settlement of Dalserf.

2.16 The first detailed impression of the landscape associated with Mauldslie castle is to be found on the Military Survey of Scotland (c.1750), compiled under the direction of locally born surveyor
William Roy, whose father served for many years as land steward for the Hamilton family of neighbouring Hallcraig. In conformity with fashion in the first half of the 18th century, the landscape immediately around the house – presumably the old tower house, unless it had been replaced by another building – consisted of a series of comparatively small rectangular enclosures or ‘parks’, separated by avenues and/or regularly-spaced field boundary trees, some in arable cultivation, those immediately around the house apparently planted as orchards. An axial avenue is seen to run south-west from the house to the east bank of the River Clyde, possibly to the Mauldslie Ford. Some woodland is marked on sloping ground, above which are seen the settlements of Dyke and Park of Mauldslie (close to today’s farm of Mauldslie Mains), amidst unenclosed cultivation rigs, which merge further uphill into unenclosed and treeless grazing land. It is possible that the name ‘Park of Mauldslie’ dates from a much earlier time when the estate served as a royal hunting reserve. To the north is marked ‘Brownlie’ and to the south ‘Milton’. A strip of unenclosed woodland is seen to run up Jock’s Gill, to the south. The landscape depicted on Roy’s map is similar to that described by Hamilton (1710) and by Rankin (1874), both of whom describe the avenue leading from the house down to the river bank, where there was a ford.

The next map in a chronological sequence was the Map of the Shire of Lanark (1773), drawn by Charles Ross, which, though lacking in useful detail, depicts the mansion house of ‘Maisly’ with associated planting, and a faint indication of rectangular enclosures. As on Roy’s Military Survey of thirty years before, the mansions of ‘Burnliee’ and ‘Milton’ are marked to the north and south respectively. At this time there was no bridge over the Clyde between Lanark and Hamilton, and with the turnpike road from Lanark to Hamilton through the so-called ‘Trough of Clyde’ yet to be built, the principal north-south routes running along the higher ground on either side of the river.

If further evidence of lack of bridges over the Clyde at this time was needed, this is to be found on the Survey and Maps of the Roads of North Britain (1776), compiled by Aberdeenshire surveyors George Taylor and Andrew Skinner. This shows the Glasgow to Lanark road running along the high ground to the east of the River Clyde, with the Hamilton to Lanark Road running more or less parallel to this on the west bank, before dropping down to cross the river at ‘Crossford Boat’, some distance to the south. The drowning of one John Carmichael while attempting to ford the river at Mauldslie is described by Rankin (1874). Taylor and Skinner’s road map, which includes only sketchy detail of the landscape, does record the mansion of Dalsierf and its owner as ‘Hamilton Esq.’, together with Mauldslie and its owner as ‘Carmichael Esq.’, on opposite banks of the river.

**New House, New Landscape: c.1792-1850**

The next document to throw useful light on the development of the landscape at Mauldslie is The County of Lanark from Actual Survey (1816) drawn up by William Forrest. By this time the road from Hamilton to Lanark through the ‘Trough of Clyde’ had been completed, with a bridge having replaced the ferry at Crossford in 1793. There was also a ‘New Bridge’ nearing completion at Garrion, not far to the north of Mauldslie, designed to carry the Edinburgh to Ayr turnpike road safely across the Clyde. In spite of this, Forrest still marks fords at Garrion, Mauldslie and Milton, that for Mauldslie opposite a house marked as ‘Dalbeg’ close to the site of the (Old) West Lodge for Maulslie, on the west side of the Maulslie ford, a short distance to the north of ‘Rosebank’.

It was in 1792 that Thomas Carmichael 5th Earl of Hyndford commissioned the well-known Scots architect Robert Adam to design and build a new mansion to replace the old house of Maulslie – a process which was evidently completed before the end of the century, when it was viewed and described in 1799 by John Stoddart (1801) as “…a new built edifice”, and in 1800 by Dr. Thomas Garnett (1811) as “…very lately finished”. There seems little doubt that the rebuilding of the mansion house was accompanied by a radical transformation of the surrounding landscape, which saw the rectangular enclosures of earlier times between the house and the river swept away, to be replaced by a by-then-fashionable parkland landscape, with a large walled garden located some distance to the south of the house. The new mansion, with its tree-studded park and walled garden is clearly seen on Forrest’s map. A curious feature of this map, yet to be decoded, is what appears to be a riverside feature – possibly planting – on the east bank of the River Clyde, marked as a succession of seven equally-spaced dark blocks, separated from each other by series of three dots, covering a distance of around half a mile.
2.21 The principal carriage drive to Mauldslie Castle at this time would appear to have been from the public road to the north (NGR NS 809 510 – North Lodge), winding down the hill on the north side of Rams Gill, before crossing the burn on the final approach to the castle. A second more direct, and therefore steeper, approach led from a point a little further south (NGR NS 811 508 – Mauldslie Kennels) down to the valley floor. A third drive, leaving the public road a short distance to the south of ‘Mains’ (NGR NS 816 504 – East Lodge) ran down on the north side of Jock’s Gill, giving access to the castle from the south, as well as leading to the Mauldslie Ford, opposite ‘Dalbeg’ and ‘Rosebank’ on the west bank of the River Clyde. A spur from this drive ran steeply down into Jock’s Gill, crossing Jock’s Burn close to its confluence with the Clyde, between houses at ‘Stanesholm’ and ‘Burnetholm’.

2.22 Contemporary pictorial evidence serves to confirm the character of the landscape surrounding Mauldslie Castle at this time. Although there is an undated portrait of Thomas Carmichael 5th Earl of Hyndford by the Scottish artist Henry Raeburn, dating from the first decade of the 19th century, which includes a view of the castle standing close to the river bank, backed by wooded hills, this cannot be regarded as an accurate representation of the castle or the landscape. Rather we have several engravings published in the first half of the 19th century. One titled ‘Mauldslie Castle’ bears the inscription ‘Colonel Gibson delt’ and ‘R. Scott sculpt’. If the artist is the landscape painter Patrick Gibson RSA, this view must have been made before his death in 1829. It shows the castle viewed from the south-west, standing on gently rising ground with the stable block to the right, and a horse-drawn carriage approaching from the south. Sheep are seen in the middle-ground, grazing in a lightly wooded park. R. Scott is presumed to have been the prolific Lanark-born engraver Robert Scott, who died in 1841. Another very similar view, copied by the Glasgow engraver Joseph Swan from a drawing by John Fleming, which was published in John Leighton’s Strath-Clutha or the Beauties of the Clyde (c.1839), shows cattle and sheep grazing in open parkland, with wooded slopes beyond. It has not been possible to determine the artist, engraver or date of a third view, taken from the west, which shows the castle standing on the uppermost of three grass terraces, linked by flights of steps. This view, too, includes the wooded park in the foreground, with wooded slopes beyond the castle.

2.23 Another key document in understanding the designed landscape at this time is an ink and watercolour manuscript Plan of Mauldsly and Rosebank (1825) by the Scottish surveyor William Kempt, likely to have been drawn up by him on his return from a brief spell working as surveyor for the Hudson Bay Company in the province of Manitoba, now part of Canada. Although lacking in detail, it shows the same features as described above – ‘Mauldsly Castle’ and its stable block overlooking a wooded park, the winding approach from the north, ‘Mauldsly Mains’, together with the North Lodge and the (old) West Lodge guarding the Mauldsly ford. Both this plan and William Forrest’s map suggest that, during his time as 5th Earl of Hyndford, Thomas Carmichael undertook a number of improvements, enclosing fields to the north and east of the castle with narrow strips of broadleaved trees, several of which fields are named on Kempt’s plan. At this time the Earl’s landownership on the west bank of the Clyde seems to have been limited to a small area embracing the (Old) West Lodge at the Mauldsly Ford and the neighbouring house of Rosebank. Kempt’s plan also includes fields and plantations to the north, around Law of Mauldsly, though there is little sense of this being part of the designed landscape.

2.24 We need not concern ourselves with the varied opinions expressed by tourists and others on the architectural merits or otherwise of Robert Adam’s castle – a building praised by tourist Dr. Thomas Garnett in 1800 for “…its fine situation and the beauty of its architecture”, Mauldsly was later described by Sir Bernard Burke in his Visitation of Seats (1855) as having been “…built in the very worst possible taste”. What is agreed upon by almost all those passing through this part of the Clyde Valley is the beauty of the well-wooded landscape, and the fine situation of Mauldsly Castle, extolled in both prose and poetry. Several authors describe the abundance of apple orchards in this part of the Clyde Valley, not least farmer and journalist William Cobbett, who mentions very large apple trees to be found amongst the parkland trees at Mauldsly, broad enough to provide shade for grazing animals. Unsurprisingly, perhaps, Mauldsly is named by horticulturist Patrick Neill in a ‘List of the principal Clydesdale Orchards’ included in his report On Scottish Gardens and Orchards (1813), drawn up at the request of the Board of Agriculture – yielding fruit which is recorded as having been sold for as much as £200 in the year 1812.

2.25 When Thomas Carmichael died unmarried in 1811, the Mauldsly Estate passed to his younger brother Andrew Carmichael, who became 6th and last Earl of Hyndford. His death not long
thereafter in 1817, also unmarried and without issue, resulted in the sub-division of the estate, as described by the Rev. John Wylie in his New Statistical Account of Scotland for the Parish of Carluke (1839). The upper part of the estate being entailed, passed to cousin Sir Windham Carmichael Anstruther of Elie in Fife, while the lower part came into the ownership of another cousin by marriage, Archibald Nisbet of Carfin. Archibald Nisbet having died in 1844, the estate was disposed of by his trustees, passing briefly through the hands of the industrialist William Dixon of the Govan Ironworks in Glasgow, before being bought by James Hozier c.1850.

2.26 While William Kempt’s 1825 plan of the lands of Mauldslie and Rosebank is an invaluable document for revealing the nature and extent of the estate, the level of detail, especially within the core designed landscape, is disappointing – for example in the depiction of features such as the burns and footpaths.

New Owner, New Development: 1850-1933

2.27 The acquisition of the lower portion of the Mauldslie estate by James Hozier resulted in significant changes being made by him and his successors to the castle and its designed landscape in the second half of the 19th century, the early 20th century. Most of these changes can be traced with the help of successive large scale Ordnance Survey maps, beginning with the First Edition Ordnance Survey.

2.28 Among major alterations revealed by the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1858) is the creation of a new carriage drive or western approach through the park, and the building of Mauldslie Bridge a short distance to the north of the Mauldslie Ford and the (Old) West Lodge, allowing direct access to the castle from the Hamilton to Lanark road. Although both the bridge and its associated gate-lodge are attributed to the Scots architect David Bryce, and are dated by Historic Scotland to 1860, the map makes it clear that the bridge (but not the gate-lodge) was already in place by 1858, being shown on the map and noted in the Ordnance Survey Object Name Book for the parish of Carluke. At the time of the survey Bryce had yet to complete work on a large southern extension to the Robert Adam mansion, a modification dated to 1860 by Valerie Fiddes and Alistair Rowan in their exhibition catalogue David Bryce 1803-1876 (1976). The date of Bryce’s additions to the mansion can also be questioned, as the Ordnance Survey Object Name Book (1858) describes at least some of the work on the mansion house as having been carried out “...about four years ago.”

2.29 Other noteworthy features recorded on this map are the Rams Gill Burn running through a conduit beneath the North Drive (NGR NS 806 506); a network of footpaths on the slopes of Rams Gill; ‘Reservoirs’ uphill to the east of the house and offices (NGR NS 811 503); a ‘Gas Works’ to the south and east of the mansion (NGR NS 811 501); two gate-lodges on the East Drive approach to the house (NGR NS 811 501 and NS 809 500); further paths and tracks on the slopes of Jock’s Gill leading eastward from the walled garden. Also marked is the farm of ‘Mauldslie Mains’ (NGR NS 813 505), along with ‘Old Smithy’ to the north-east (NGR 818 508). The grass terraces around the house, including a ‘Bowling Green’, also known as ‘Shepherd’s Butts’, are also clearly marked. While much of the policy woodland is shown as a mixture of broadleaved and coniferous trees, the parkland planting is shown to be entirely broadleaved.

2.30 Examination of the First Edition Ordnance Survey for the neighbouring Parish of Dalserf (1858) also leads to the conclusion that James Hozier, or one of his predecessors, had managed to acquire additional land on the west bank of the River Clyde, to serve as a western extension of the Mauldslie policies – a move which would presumably have been designed to protect the outward views from Mauldslie Castle and its western approaches. The extent of this additional land is clearly defined by a strip of planting, enclosing an area of parkland ornamented with two large clumps. Furthermore, it is recorded that James Hozier was instrumental in the creation of the small settlement of Rosebank, as a community of workers employed on the Mauldslie estate, a village described in the Ordnance Survey Object Name Book (1858) as “...surrounded by orchards which are also used as vegetable gardens”, and which was noted some years later as “...one of the best kept places in Clydesdale”. The Object Name Book (1858) records both Rosebank and the neighbouring house of Annsfield as being in the ownership of James Hozier, while Dalserf House to the north and Dalpatrick to the south were in Hamilton ownership.

2.31 The Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1896) shows further additions to the Designed landscape, including the turreted (New) West Lodge with its arched gateway on the roadside at the west end
of Mauldslie Bridge (NGR NS 803 502); also 'Mauldslie Kennels', between the North Lodge and Mauldslie Mains (NGR NS 811 508); and a new gate lodge at the head of the East Drive (NGR NS 816 504). Also noted on this map are Law Colliery No. 4 Pit and Law Colliery No. 5 Pit, within the northern boundary of the designed landscape, developed to exploit the so-called Ell Coal and Splint Coal outcrops, along with a third abandoned working adjacent to Mauldslie Cottage (NGR NS 821 505). Small changes in the footpath network within the policies can be traced by comparing successive maps. Of two lattice-work iron bridges recorded, that crossing the Rams Gill Burn (NGR NS 809 506) is marked in the First Edition Ordnance Survey (1858), while second bridge at the head of the small den above the Stable Block (NGR NS 810 505) does not appear until the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (1897). It has not been possible to determine the character of a third bridge which crossed the Rams Gill Burn below the first of these (NGR NS 807 506), also seen on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey. It is likely that some drives and footpaths were deliberately designed to lead to key viewpoints – for example one on the East Drive giving a broad view over the Lower Clyde Valley (NGR NS 812 500), another by North Drive, to the north of Rams Gill overlooking Dalsierf (NGR NS 806 507), and a third overlooking the River Clyde from a point near to the foot of Jock's Gill (NGR NS 811 499) – though it has not been possible to identify these viewpoints from map evidence alone.

2.32 There are several photographs and postcard views taken around the turn of the 20th century which point to the creation of formal bedding scheme on the terraces surrounding the mansion house, and to the planting of a number of ornamental conifers within the adjacent pleasure grounds in the second half of the 19th century – a reflection, perhaps, of the revival of interest in flower gardening and the collection of exotic species in the Victorian period. These photographs show panel beds planted with annual and perennial bedding plants, together with clumps of rhododendron and other evergreen shrubs, accent by several columnar yews and cypress trees, which would have combined to provide winter colour and interest in what were otherwise mostly broadleaved and deciduous surroundings. Several large Wellingtonias (Sequoiadendron giganteum) and at least two fine Western Hemlocks (Tsuga heterophylla) planted on and around the garden terraces, along with some large clumps of rhododendron, are likely to date from this period of planting. Other photographs taken from a greater distance show mature standard trees standing within grazed parkland surrounding the house, with the carriage drives bounded by light iron railing fences typical of the period. At this time, the fields to the north of the Garrion Bridge to Carluke road are shown as surrounded by belts of mixed broadleaved and coniferous planting.

2.33 Little change is apparent on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey (1910), save for the closure of the Law Colliery No. 5 Pit, and the conversion of its reservoir to a curling pond. It was shortly after this, and just before the outbreak of the First World War that Mauldslie was visited by King George V and Queen Mary. The latter half of the 19th century had seen a rise in the status of the Hozier family, the original James Hozier's son William Wallace Hozier having been created Baronet on Newlands and Mauldslie in 1890, and raised to the peerage as Lord Newlands in 1898. It was William Hozier's son James Henry Cecil Hozier, diplomat, distinguished politician and sometime Lord Lieutenant of Lanarkshire, who hosted the royal visit, photographs of which give us a glimpse of the well-tended policies. However, on the death of James Hozier 2nd Lord Newlands without issue in 1929, the title became extinct, and the fortunes of Mauldslie Castle and its estate took a dramatic turn for the worse.

**Fragmentation and Decline : 1933 to 2013**

2.34 There being no heir to the Mauldslie Castle Estate, the trustees of James Hozier evidently chose to place the property on the market. Styled by Carluke-based auctioneers J. & J. Marshall as "...one of the most attractive and important residential and agricultural properties in the county", the property was divided into 40 separate lots, of which one (Lot No.16) was withdrawn before the sale on 3rd November 1933. Of the remainder, Lot Nos.1 to 22 were subdivisions of the designed landscape, while Lot Nos. 23 to 40 were individual properties in the village of Rosebank.

2.35 Some impression of the designed landscape prior to the sale can be gained from a careful reading of the *The Mauldslie Castle Estate: Sale Particulars* (1933). In these, the estate was described as being "...magnificently timbered, including large commercial quantities of fine oak, ash, beech, larch, spruce etc." Noteworthy amongst the various sub-divisions was Lot No. 12, being "...a very desirable walled-in kitchen garden, with two gardener's houses ... in a first class condition of
cultivation”, with numerous glasshouses and associated structures. Lot No. 14, at the foot of Rams Gill was described as including "...a hard tennis court and a timber and slated pavilion".

2.36 At the heart of the estate was Lot No. 8, Mauldslie Castle which was "...approached over two long and well-kept drives from the main Glasgow-Lanark Clyde Valley Road and the Garrion Bridge to Carluke public road, and [which] commands lovely views over the surrounding lands". Anticipating, perhaps, that the mansion house was too large to continue in use as a single private residence, the auctioneers noted that it offered "...a rare opportunity for conversion into a country club, school, rest home or similar institution”. The pleasure grounds surrounding the mansion house were said to "...comprise lawns, flanked with rhododendrons, gravelled walks and flights of steps descending to azalea beds, formal rose and flower beds, [and a] croquet lawn.”

2.37 The development potential of the estate was flagged up in the Sale Particulars, which spoke of there being "...many enclosures of valuable and fertile grasslands suitable for market gardening". Lot No. 2a (recorded on Kemp’ts 1825 plan as Bankbrae) was described as "...a most useful woodland site with a frontage to the Garrion Bridge to Carluke public road ... suitable for the purposes of a market garden” – a potential since realised with the creation of the Reynard Nursery in 1992. Lot No. 9, too, in spite of being wooded, was described as "...lying on a southern slope and eminently suitable for conversion into a market garden, part adjoining the River Clyde”. Most telling, perhaps, was the description of Lot 15, flanking the West Drive from Mauldslie Bridge to the castle, characterised as "...a valuable and picked area of parkland offering a rare opportunity for the acquisition of fine building or feuing sites [which would have] an average depth of about 200 ft. and a total frontage to the [West] Drive of about 2,600 ft., and command some lovely views over the adjoining country”.

2.38 Some consequences of the sale of the Mauldslie Castle estate are apparent on the Fourth Edition (Revision) Ordnance Survey (1939), published in 1946. Most noteworthy, perhaps, was the disappearance of Mauldslie Castle itself, demolished in 1935 not long after the sale, leaving little more than the garden terraces on which it stood – much of the stonework reportedly removed for re-use elsewhere. It can be assumed that Lot No. 13, part of the parkland adjacent to the River Clyde, was acquired by Lanarkshire County Council as the site of a new sewage treatment plant, since taken over by Scottish Water, various tanks, filter beds and sludge beds being marked on the map. By this time the walled garden, with its glasshouses, had become the site of Mauldslie Castle Nurseries, the history of which it has not been possible to research in the time available. However, an aerial photograph taken in 1946 appears to show the garden in full cultivation. Fiona Jamieson’s recent research into the Clyde Valley Orchards has thrown light on the comparatively prosperous state of the fruit growing industry in the Clyde Valley in the mid-20th century, evidenced in the formation of the Scottish Fruitgrowers’ Research Association in Carluke in 1943. Her research also mentions the firm J. Thomson & Company of the Mauldslie Preserve Works in Law, already established by 1884, which employed as many as 100 staff prior to its closure in 1956 – a local industry still carried on by food manufacturers Messrs. R. & W. Scott of Carluke to this day. It is not known how much, if any produce from the Mauldslie Castle estate was used in this industry.

2.39 Apart from showing the sewage treatment works and the site of the demolished mansion house, the 1946 aerial photograph also reveals that large parts the policy woodland, most notably Lot No. 9 to the north and east of the castle, were felled not long after the sale and break-up of the estate, presumably by a buyer interested in the commercial value of the timber, as described in the Sale Particulars. Later aerial photographs record the decline and eventual abandonment of the walled garden. Amongst other changes evident from a study of successive maps and aerial photographs has been a gradual loss of standard trees within the riverside parkland, and the reshaping of the hill-slope between the former Gas Works (NGR NS 811 501) and the Stable Block or office (NGR NS 809 503), and the comparatively recent formation of new, somewhat angular clumps and plantations in the southern parkland (Lot No.13), presumably intended to screen the now much-expanded sewage treatment plant.

2.40 Also evident from aerial photographic evidence is the decline and disintegration of the tree-belts surrounding the fields to the north of the Garrion to Carluke road, where only a few mature trees are seen to have survived, in contrast with the narrow belts of mature Scots pine trees on the neighbouring Brownlee Estate. While the fields themselves show every sign of being well-tended, the footprints of the various mine-workings and the railway track-beds linking them show up clearly as uncultivated ground. Among the plans now held by National Archives of Scotland is one
which suggests that mine-workings close to Mauldslie Cottage, begun some time after 1858, but abandoned before the end of the 19th century, were reopened for a short time between the two World Wars, before being abandoned again – a phenomenon commented on by George Thomson in his *Third Statistical Account of the Parish of Lanark* (1960). Another plan of 1872 records a sub-lease of ground by Michael Burns to James Thornton, on which are marked a number of boreholes, and ‘Burns Branch Railway’.

2.41 The most recent and significant change to the designed landscape has been the granting of permission for new housing on the site of the Mauldslie Castle walled garden, latterly known as Mauldslie Castle Nurseries. The applicant Stay Home Construction Ltd. of Glasgow, in partnership with Ewan Cameron Architects, was granted permission by South Lanarkshire Council in February 2010 for the construction of five dwelling houses on the site of the walled garden, to be known in future as The Orchard, Mauldslie. Permission was conditional on there being an archaeological evaluation of the site. This was carried out by Douglas Gordon of Rathmell Archaeology Limited, whose report *Mauldslie Castle Nurseries: Archaeological Evaluation* was issued in June 2011. No significant archaeological features were discovered in the nine trenches which were dug, all recorded features arising from the use of the site as a walled garden in the 19th and 20th centuries – e.g. rubble or tile drains, brick and stone walls, cinder paths, made ground etc. Following demolition of the (unlisted) walled garden, work is now in progress on the landscaping of the site prior to redevelopment.

**A Historical Summary**

2.42 Based on a combination of documentary, cartographic and pictorial evidence, it is possible to identify at least five distinct phases in the history and development of the designed landscape associated with Mauldslie Castle. These are:

2.43 **Phase 1 ~ Pre-c.1500**: The maintenance of Mauldslie as a royal hunting forest used by King Robert Bruce and others, involving strict control of grazing and tree management.

2.44 **Phase 2 ~ c.1500-1792**: The development by the Maxwell and Carmichael families of a landscape of rectangular, walled and/or tree-lined gardens and enclosures on the haugh land to the west of the old tower house, backed by woodland, as seen on Roy’s Military Survey of Scotland of c.1750.

2.45 **Phase 3 ~ 1792-1850**: The separation of the upper and lower parts of the Mauldslie estate. The rebuilding of the mansion house to designs by architect Robert Adam for the 5th Earl of Hyndford, accompanied by a remodelling of the landscape in the then-fashionable parkland style, together with agricultural ‘improvements’ involving additional enclosure and planting to the north and east, as seen on William Forrest’s map of 1816.

2.46 **Phase 4 ~ 1850-1933**: The acquisition and landscaping of additional land on the west bank of the River Clyde. The extension of Mauldslie Castle to designs by architect David Bryce, and the remodelling of the pleasure grounds by the Hozier family to include formal bedding, shrubberies and specimen trees, accompanied by the building of Mauldslie Bridge and a new western approach to the house.

2.47 **Phase 5 ~ 1933-2013**: Sale of the Mauldslie Estate, and consequent division into multiple-ownership. Demolition of Mauldslie Castle mansion house in 1935. Felling of majority of policy woodland, along with decline of parkland planting and northern tree-belts. Siting of sewage treatment works by County Council in parkland. New house built on site of Mauldslie Castle. Walled garden demolished to provide site for new housing.

2.48 It is clear from the foregoing account that the broad structure of the landscape seen today on the east bank of the River Clyde was established around the turn of the 19th century as the setting for the Robert Adam mansion of Mauldslie Castle, begun in the 1790s. This landscape was extended to the north and east, beyond the ‘core’ policies in the form of rectangular fields enclosed by narrow tree belts. A small area on the west bank of the River Clyde, bounded by a new tree-belt was added to this by the middle of the 19th century. Some of the surviving policy planting is known to have been added in the mid-to-late 19th century. Though badly degraded, and in fragmented ownership since the 1930s, the historic designed landscape of Mauldslie Castle still does much to determine landscape character in this part of the Clyde Valley.
Cultural associations

There are many cultural associations surrounding the Clyde Valley, and some of these relate directly or indirectly to the Mauldslie Estate. Prose and poetry was written about the estate, authors including Samuel Coleridge and Dorothy Wordsworth have described the estate during their visits. Historical descriptions found during the research for the Conservation Management Plan are set out in Appendix 2.

Site appraisal

The Mauldslie Estate in its current state would not excite the authors and poets that once visited the Clyde Valley in the way that it did up to the early 20th century. It is now a fragmented area, with new development and varied land uses breaking up the continuity of the parks and woodlands of the estate. The core of the estate has been compromised by the loss of the castle in the 1930s, the development of the sewage works in the central parkland and the recent clearance of walled garden. Without the castle as centrepiece, and with the break-up of the estate during the 1933 sale, there has been little incentive to maintain the character and integrity of the estate as a whole. Consequently today’s designed landscape is fragmented and it is hard to gain an impression of the estate as a whole as it once was.

However, there remain many distinctive elements of the landscape that are of heritage and scenic value and which deserve conservation. These might form the key to preserving the character and integrity of the landscape, ensuring that it is recognisable and valued by the local community and those who visit, into the foreseeable future. To achieve this, there are a number of opportunities that could be taken to improve the visitor experience and impression of the estate. Those opportunities are set out in later sections of the Conservation Management Plan, and are based upon the site appraisal that is set out below.

The designed landscape

Much of today’s designed landscape has its origins in the late 18th century as the setting for the Robert Adam designed ‘castle’ for the 5th Earl of Hyndford, in the parkland style, with agricultural changes involving enclosure and woodland planting to the north and east, as seen on William Forrest’s map of 1818. What remains today is the structure of the designed landscape, with alignment of the field boundaries (though not all original fences) and drives/paths following established historical routes. Without the castle, these do not come to focus on the core of the estate, and some of the routes immediately around the castle are lost beneath woodland on privately owned land.

The overall pattern of the landscape remains, and is one of open parkland on the valley floor, wooded steeper slopes behind the castle and stables, giving way to open agricultural fields with a shelterbelt framework, both on the gentler slope above to the northeast, and also on the south-western slopes across the valley.

Open parkland

The open parkland on the flat valley floor is divided by the main drive. To the north of the main drive, the parkland is enclosed with modern post and wire fencing and some remnant metal strap fencing, and is grazed by sheep. Within the parkland are several veteran and mature trees standing as broad-crowned single specimens or as open groupings. These trees are protected from livestock by timber fence enclosures of relatively recent construction. The river edge is not included within the enclosed grazing area. It provides a corridor for the Clyde Walkway and is generally of long grass with some trees and scrub vegetation. This area is maintained by strimming along the path edges, some of which is carried out by the angling association, United Clyde Angling Protection Association.

To the south of the main drive, an enclosed field to the east of the access to the sewage treatment works is un-grazed and the mature parkland trees do not have protective fencing around them. To the west of the sewage works, the parkland is unenclosed, and long grass prevails. The Clyde Walkway and other paths are maintained by limited grass cutting/strimming, but most of the area is left unmanaged. In this area there has been significant planting, in the
form of a broad woodland belt immediately around the sewage works site. Smaller areas of woodland have also been introduced around the mature parkland trees that once stood in the open. These areas were planted in 1995-1996 with the intention of forming roundels or clumps of woodland, landscape features that would have been in keeping with the ‘parkland’ style. However the mix of tree species used, was predominantly pioneer species not suitable for development as parkland specimens. It is possible that this was intended as a protective crop that would be thinned to allow the selected specimen trees to mature. However, these clumps have not been thinned, and are now very much in need of management, particularly to remove unsuitable tree species. A shelterbelt to the east of the new development site is dominated by a line of poplars, which grow fast but are not suitable as mature parkland specimens.

**Wooded Slopes**

2.56 The wooded slopes at Mauldslie are one of the estate’s key assets. The castle and stable block once stood at the foot of the slopes, on the valley floor, and were seen to dramatic effect with a backdrop of woodland. The woodland provided an important setting to the castle, as well as being a place where walks and drives could be enjoyed. It would also have provided timber fuel and game for the castle kitchens.

2.57 Most of the valley slopes within the estate would have been wooded, and most remain as woodland although some have been subject to felling and restocking. The slopes around Mauldslie House (the site of the former gas works) have always been more open, although OS maps dating back to the first edition in 1864 show that there were scattered trees across these slopes. The early OS maps also show discrete areas of orchards on the valley slopes, which, as for much of the Clyde Valley, would have been an important part of the productivity of the Mauldslie Estate. Orchards in the Mauldslie Estate shown on the OS map of 1864 included areas along Jock’s Gill, above the gas works, south of Kenneth Lodge and along the north drive within the NNR, as well as several plots adjacent to Rosebank. Several of these orchard areas were however discontinued, and were consequently not shown on the later maps ie by the time the maps were revised in 1898 (second edition OS).

2.58 The woodland on the slopes above Mauldslie Castle were nearing maturity in the 1930s, and were described in the *Sale Particulars* of 1933 as ‘magnificently timbered’. Much of these woodlands were felled in the late 1930s-40s, and the mix of plantation and semi-natural broad-leaved woodlands present today date from replanting after that time. The remaining larch trees in Mauldslie Wood were planted in 1937-1938, and survived the harvesting that was done in 1988-1989. There is therefore a mosaic of different woodland areas across the slopes, with some long established areas, such as in Jock’s Gill, to younger woodlands that have a different mix of species.

2.59 The broad-leaved woodlands supported at the site are of notable conservation interest and the woodlands of Jock’s Gill form part of the wider Clyde Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) complex, designated for its mixed woodland on base-rich soils which support a diverse and unusual ground-flora. The woodlands to the north of the Stables are designated as part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands National Nature Reserve (NNR), which is made up of six different sites within the Clyde Valley. The status of these woodlands at Mauldslie gives them recognition, but also places their management/maintenance at a priority level, to retain their values and continuity of woodland cover.

**Veteran Trees**

2.60 The large and veteran trees on the Mauldslie Estate have been surveyed, some in 2009, others in 2013 as part of the Conservation Management Plan. This survey looked at the key large and veteran trees around the site of the castle and across the valley floor parkland, as well as key individual trees within the wooded valley slopes. The survey also included woodland areas in a broader assessment that considered woodland compartments across the estate.

2.61 Tree survey results are presented in Appendix 3, with remarkable trees included in the Gazetteer.

2.62 In summary the key observations are that the estate contains some fine veteran trees of considerable size. These are mostly spread across the parkland or line the main drive or Clatty Brae. Within the parkland the trees are mostly deciduous specimens, many of which date from the early 19th century, and some possibly older (i.e. c. 200 years old). These trees are predominantly
Sycamore and Lime with fewer numbers of Horse Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut, Oak, Beech, Ash, Silver Maple, Norway Maple and Copper Beech. Some of these veteran trees are becoming stag headed and would benefit from tree surgery to improve their condition and longevity. A few trees have also been damaged by vandalism.

2.63 Notable evergreens were introduced later (c 1860) at the time of the estate’s development by James Hozier. These were concentrated close to the Castle and along the newly introduced main drive. These were predominantly Giant Redwoods but several other exotic conifers were also used including small numbers of Western Red Cedar, Western Hemlock, Lawsons Cypress, Corsican Pine, Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce and Irish Yews.

**Agricultural fields**

2.64 The agricultural areas of the estate, above the woodlands on the slopes to the north-east of the valley, and on the slopes on the south-west side of the valley are of permanent grazing and ley pasture fields that are bounded by a mixture of modern post and wire fencing, historical metal strap fencing and hedging. A distinctive feature of the agricultural fields at Mauldslie is the presence of wide field margins/ former shelter belts along the rectilinear field boundaries. Margins that run perpendicular to the contours are generally wider than those running parallel to the contours. Currently these take the form of two fences 15-20m apart, enclosing corridors of rough ground with shrubs and occasional trees. Little remains of woodland in these belts and it is unclear whether they have been deliberately cleared in the past or were originally planted as shorter lived tree/ shrub belts. In places there is no boundary definition to these belts, but ploughing or cutting has stopped at the historic edges, thus leaving uncultivated strips between the fields. At the corners of the fields, the boundaries are curved to facilitate the turning of ploughs. Although current maps (e.g. that used as a base for the figures) do not show all of these distinctive chamfered corners, they are evident on the ground.

2.65 On the south-western side of the valley the permanent pasture fields are on steeper ground, and a shelterbelt runs along the top of the slope, forming the horizon in views from the north side of the river. This mixed shelterbelt contains some mature trees and hawthorn scrub, thick hawthorn hedging is present in the southern section.

**Landscape Structures & Architecture**

2.66 Although Mauldslie Castle Estate has lost a number of historic buildings and structures from its core area, it still retains architectural features and structures of interest and significance. These features are varied, some are historical and would have been part of the 18th century designed landscape, others are modern additions or replacements.

2.67 The most notable historic architectural elements are the Grand Gateway and South Lodge adjoining Mauldslie Bridge that create a significant architectural statement and strong sense of arrival. The bridge and adjoining buildings are of blond sandstone and the lodge is of baronial style designed by David Bryce in a style similar to that used in his extension to Mauldslie Castle. These are seen from the A72, and form a landmark along that route. More than any other architectural feature, the Mauldslie Bridge Gate and Lodge signify the presence of the designed landscape and contribute to the character of the Clyde Valley. The lodge house is occupied and the bridge has been subject to restoration work. This gateway is also strategically important as it represents the main vehicular route into the designed landscape for the public and for several of the residents.

2.68 Whilst the Castle was demolished the adjacent complementary stable block survived and remains as one of the estate’s oldest architectural features. The stable block has been converted into residential units and this has involved some alterations. It originally had a distinctive spire on the tower over the entrance, but the tower was subsequently removed, and the setting of the remaining building is partially compromised by the introduction of planting, fencing and, vents for modern heating systems. Carved stones have been set into the arched recesses, but these are not original.

2.69 There remain a number of less prominent historic buildings within the estate; these include lodge houses, farm buildings and the older properties in the village of Rosebank. These buildings also reinforce the character of the estate landscape, although several have been modified for contemporary use e.g. by window alterations, extensions, stone painting/ rendering etc. In
addition to these, a number of recent developments have taken place within the designed landscape; these are described below.

2.70 Other historic architectural features are smaller or more subtle, these include: boundaries and gates made of wrought iron in a distinctive ‘metal strap fence’ style typical of many estates, and matched gateposts, finials and pedestrian ‘kissing gates’. In the woodlands there are also other historical features such as iron bridges (there are three iron bridges that are in ruins), bridge culverts and stone flights of steps on historic path routes.

2.71 Modern landscape elements include post and wire fencing and aluminium gates that are wider and more robust than the original estate gates, as well as being easy to source. Often the post and wire fences are placed alongside the original metal strap fences, where they have become damaged and bent, and take on the role of stock proofing. This means that future repairs to metal strap fencing are harder to justify as the post and wire fences are cheaper and easier to maintain. There is, however, a loss of character when ubiquitous post and wire fencing is used.

**Ecology and habitats**

2.72 The ecological aspects of the site were reviewed, using research into existing information such as citations for designations, consultation, and a walkover survey. The site supports a mix of managed pastoral and semi-natural habitats, including semi-natural broad-leaved woodlands and semi-improved neutral grasslands. The broad-leaved woodlands are of notable conservation interest and Jock’s Gill woods form part of the wider Clyde Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) complex, designated for its mixed woodland on base-rich soils which support a diverse and unusual ground-flora. Mauldslie Woods to the north of the Stables are designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR). This determines that the site is important for nature conservation and is a valuable potential resource for natural heritage education for visitors to the Clyde Valley, to the local community and to special interest groups in the area.

2.73 A particular feature of the designed landscape is the presence numerous veteran trees, e.g. oak *Quercus petraea* and horse chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*. Over long time periods some of these trees have succumbed to wood decay and stress, sometimes exacerbated by such as lighting strikes or fire setting. Through these processes individual trees can be transformed into macro-organisms that support a wide range of micro-habitats and associated organisms. The holes and fissures, which frequently develop in veteran tress, can provide optimal nesting, sheltering and roosting habitats for birds, including owls and woodpeckers, and bats. Furthermore, numerous species of invertebrate, lichen, moss and fungi are saprophytic, relying exclusively on decaying wood habitats.

2.74 Over recent historical time the otter population has re-colonised a significant proportion of water-bodies in Scotland, following persecution in the mid-20th Century. The river gorges draining the eastern slopes of the Clyde Valley (e.g. Jock’s Burn to the south of the Mauldslie Castle Estate) and the River Clyde itself will provide foraging and sheltering opportunities for otter. The geomorphology of the river gorges is likely to give rise to cavities in the rock and exposed tree roots can provide shelter for otter. The associated riparian woodland will also provide cover and seclusion, whilst the River Clyde will support populations of freshwater fish and amphibians as a foraging resource.

2.75 Although modest levels of management are currently carried out, including tree thinning and rhododendron control, there are opportunities to enhance the woodlands for biodiversity by, for example, control of invasive species and measures to support wildlife species.

**Development in the landscape**

2.76 Development across the Mauldslie estate was historically limited to farm buildings and functional estate buildings prior to the breakup of the estate after the 1933 sale. An exception to this was the colliery developments along the northern edge of the estate, which included railway tracks and pits with associated buildings and workings. The Sale Particulars of 1933 indicate that the lots into which the estate was divided were attractive sites for development, including for nurseries and housing.

2.77 Since that time, development has occurred in a number of locations on the estate, notably the introduction of the sewage & waste water treatment plant on the valley floor parkland, and
conversion of the gasworks and kennels sites to residential properties, as well as other buildings becoming purely residential properties no longer linked to functions on the estate (for example the stable courtyard conversion). On the site of the former castle, Mauldslie Cottage was built, and modern wooden stables have been introduced behind it (north-east). Reynards Nursery occupies a plot of land off Mauldslie Road, to the south of the East Lodge gateway. Rosebank has also expanded with both residential and commercial nursery buildings.

2.78 At the time of preparation of the Conservation Management Plan, the Mauldslie Orchard development was under construction (early phases). This will include 5 properties with associated horse paddocks on the site of the former Walled Garden, demolished in late 2012. The Orchard development will bring new landowners onto the estate, and will alter access and security issues around the site, as well as increasing the emphasis on horse riding as a popular activity on the estate.

Land ownership

2.79 Since the Auction Sale of 1933, the Mauldslie estate has been fragmented, with a number of different landowners. South Lanarkshire Council owns a large part of the land, including the NNR woodlands and parts of the flat parkland (see Figure 2). Scottish Water owns the water treatment works, and the remaining land is owned by a number of private landowners.

2.80 The aspirations and concerns of the different landowners expressed through consultation varies, and will have a bearing on the management of the estate going forward. Different landowners have different views on how the estate should be managed, and will take different approaches to management of their land holdings. In addition, security for properties is a concern for private landowners on the estate, particularly when considering potential for increased public access.

Current Management regimes

2.81 There are currently no estate-wide management measures being undertaken, because there is no mechanism for doing so, and there are multiple landowners. Following the 1933 sale, there have been 80 years (or two to three generations) since the estate was considered as a whole entity.

2.82 Jock’s Gill is designated as a SSSI, and there a management agreement in place for that area.

2.83 The NNR woodland was planted in part, with natural regeneration in other areas, since the felling that occurred in the 1940s. There has been little active management of these woodlands, and some areas are in need of thinning, and a proactive management approach. Although this area is an NNR, there are opportunities in this woodland to trial a number of management approaches which cannot, for various reasons, be used in other parts of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR (five other sites), which, alongside interpretation, could meet the National Nature Reserve requirements of promoting public access and learning.

2.84 A small amount of river bank management is carried out by the United Clyde Angling Protection Association (UCAPA), which maintains access to the riverbank by strimming routes to the water’s edge on both sides of the river.

2.85 Private land management is varied, and relates to the function of the area (gardens, curtilage or beyond). Agricultural management entails maintaining fences and field boundaries, and grazing animals or raising grass or arable crops.

Access

2.86 The estate is generally approached via the A72, or via Mauldslie Road if travelling by car, but there are additional access points for those approaching on foot, such as along the Clyde Walkway (upstream or downstream) or along Clatty Brae.

Routes

2.87 There is a network of access routes across the Mauldslie Estate, ranging from the A72 to minor vehicular roads, tracks, and paths both metalled and unmetalled and with differing levels of formality. These routes within the estate are shown on Figure 3.

2.88 The A72 is the main public road following the River Clyde in the valley floor. It is a very busy road, and although there are speed restrictions (40mph) between Rosebank and Dalsarf. The A72
has a pedestrian footpath on the west side in this area. The section of the A72 passing through the estate is recorded as a core path in the Core Paths Plan.  

2.89 **Mauldslie Road** runs from the B7011 along the Brownlee Estate, towards Carluke and is a C class road, and although not as busy as the A72, traffic can be fast along the straight section past the Kennels.  

2.90 **Birks Road** route runs north-east from Mauldslie Road and forms the northern edge of the estate. It is recorded as part of the ‘wider network’ of paths.  

2.91 **Manse Brae** runs south from the A72 up to Howlethole. It has an awkward junction with the A72, and climbs steeply up the valley sides, making it unsuitable for larger vehicles.  

2.92 **Main Drive** connects the A72 with Mauldslie Road via Mauldslie Bridge, past the stables, Kenneth Lodge, Reynard and East Lodge. It is the main route through the estate, and is gated at Reynard. It is recorded as a core path. Construction traffic for the Orchard development enters the estate from Mauldslie Road, thus avoiding Mauldslie Bridge and the narrow arched gateway.  

2.93 **North Drive** runs from the Main Drive near the castle site and winds its way up to Mauldslie Road opposite Birks Road through the NNR woodland. Part of it is recorded as a core path. The north drive is an unmetalled track, gated, but passable to vehicles for maintenance. It shows signs of erosion by surface water run-off in steeper sections.

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2.94 **Clyde Walkway** runs along the east bank of the River Clyde, and forms part of a long distance route within South Lanarkshire. It is recorded as a core path. The Clyde Walkway is variable in surface material and condition, from a natural track to a constructed porous surface path. Its width also varies, from a narrow path winding through open grassland, to a wide open path with wooden edging boards through the NNR. It also has timber boardwalk sections at the eastern edge of the designed landscape towards Jock’s Gill, which are in sound condition at present. However, these include some steps which are necessary due to the steep topography. Overall the Clyde Walkway has an informal appearance that may underplay its status as a major strategic footpath. It is designated as one of Scotland’s Great Trails.

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2.95 **Quarry Road** runs from Mauldslie Road to Law as part of the pattern of rectilinear fields north of Mauldslie Road. This route is not accessible to vehicles and is recorded as a core path.

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1 South Lanarkshire Council (2012) *Core Path Plan*
2.96 **Clatty Brae** runs from Rosebank (opposite the Popinjay Hotel), up the valley slope to the south to Netherburn Road. It is a historical route that formed the boundary of the Mauldslie Estate, and is an old track with an avenue of beech trees. It is recorded as a core path. The Clatty Brae shows evidence of once having been an important access route, emphasised by the lines of beech trees on either side, although these are likely to have started life as a beech hedge.

![Sections of the Clatty Brae](image1)

2.97 Other paths within the estate are generally unmaintained routes through the woodland. These are abandoned or less frequently used routes, but still legible. They have sections that are muddy in winter, or overgrown in summer. Those that are in use are passable, but many of the routes are unused and have become overgrown. There are examples of overgrown paths in all parts of the estate, including the NNR where stone steps now lead to dead ends, and in Jock’s Gill where a double line of metal strap fences lead to a broken bridge.

2.98 There are a number of Core Paths around the Mauldslie Estate, set out in the *Core Path Plan* (South Lanarkshire Council, 2012). These are shown on Figure 3, and include:

- the pavement along the south side of the A72 (HM/2502/1)
- the Clyde Walkway (CL/3019/3, CL/3019/2, CL/3020/1)
- the main drive (CL/5767/1, CL/3023/1)
- Clatty Brae (HM/2501/1)
- The north drive from the Clyde Walkway to Mauldslie Road (CL/3022/1)
- Quarry Road (CL/3028/1)

2.99 In addition, the Jock’s Gill path from Mauldslie Road down to the iron bridge and up to Gillbank is listed as an Aspirational Core Path (CL/3025/1).

**Recreation activities**

2.100 Walking is the principal recreational activity at Mauldslie, with dog walkers and people passing through on the Clyde Walkway being the largest groups of visitors. The main routes used are the Clyde Walkway, the main drive and the north drive through the NNR woodlands to Mauldslie Road. More adventurous walkers use some of the more obscure routes, including from the NNR out to Mauldslie Kennels or along the northern edge of the NNR to the old iron bridge and the reservoir. Horse riders keep to the more open paths, including the main drive and the north drive. The area is also used for off-road cycling.

2.101 The River Clyde is one of the principal waterways in Scotland, and drains the distinctive Clyde Valley in which Mauldslie sits. The river is one of the most important fishing rivers in Scotland, with both trout and salmon, the latter having returned to the river in the 1990s. The United Clyde Angling Protection Association (UCAPA) holds the salmon rights to the river, and manages fishing permits and monitors anglers with bailiffs and wardens. Anglers have right of access to the river, even over private land, and the UCAPA has a good relationship with existing landowners. The UCAPA currently undertakes a limited amount of strimming along the Mauldslie section of the river to allow access to the banks. Fishing on the Clyde is popular with anglers, as it has a reputation for challenging fishing.

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2 This route was known and is used occasionally by a landowner on the estate and by one local resident who walks on the estate for recreation. There is little evidence of the path use on the ground, and bridges are collapsed, and the reservoir is hazardous.
2.102 People are usually present on the Mauldslie estate, although not in great numbers except at sunny weekends when visitors include families with picnics. There are usually anglers on the river, and people on the Clyde Walkway, so it is not deserted, and regular anglers report that antisocial behaviour is less common than it has been in the past.

**Parking**

2.103 Parking facilities for the public are limited on the estate. The parking area near Mauldslie Bridge is used by anglers as well as other visitors, which determines that it is frequently full. It comes under most pressure at weekends when anglers and other visitors combine.

2.104 There is car parking at Rosebank near the Popinjay Hotel, and some walkers leave their cars at the garden centre car parks.

2.105 Informal parking also occurs along Birks Road, where there are three areas where a car or cars can be parked by the side of the road.

Parking locations: Mauldslie Bridge; Rosebank; Birk Road.
3 Statement of Significance

Introduction

3.1 This chapter seeks to define the heritage significance of the Mauldslie Estate designed landscape. Its importance is described concisely for the landscape’s main attributes and summarised below.

Summary

3.2 Mauldslie Castle Estate occupies a large and prominent area in the section of the Clyde Valley historically known as the ‘trough’. The designed landscape extends over both sides of the valley and occupies the valley floor, encompassing a broad meander of the Clyde. The landscape consequently envelopes the view and determines the scenic character of the valley: characterised by extensive parklands with veteran trees in the low ground, and fields with wooded horizons on the valley slopes. Mauldslie Castle Estate is one of several contiguous designed landscapes in the Clyde Valley, and is sandwiched between Brownlee and Milton. The combined effect is a richly scenic landscape corridor of continuous parklands, woodlands, orchards and fields interspersed by architectural landmarks in the form of bridges, gate lodges and estate farm buildings.

3.3 The Mauldslie Castle Estate landscape is the product of several centuries of development dating from the possibly the 13th century. The current landscape is largely the legacy of early 19th century developments following the design of a new mansion by Robert Adam for the 5th Earl of Hyndford. The associated landscape changes introduced a largely informal style within the valley, contrasting with a distinctive rectilinear arrangement of field enclosures above the valley to the north-east. Significant architectural features have been lost from the landscape (e.g. the Castle and Walled Garden) but the historical significance of the architects (Robert Adam and later David Bryce) and of their patrons remains of interest.

3.4 The Estate also has a wealth of historical records, illustrations and photographs which are a valuable social history resource, especially so given the loss of key features during the 20th century.

3.5 The northern woodlands of Mauldslie are part of the Clyde Woodlands National Nature Reserve and along the valley of Jock’s Gill the woodlands are a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest. Within the parklands and older parts of the plantation woodlands are numerous notable veteran and specimen trees important for their contributions to the local scenery and biodiversity and of significant arboricultural interest. The extensive grasslands and the riparian corridors of the Clyde and its tributaries also contribute to the range of habitats at Mauldslie.

History & Cultural Heritage

3.6 As described in Chapter 2 Mauldslie has a rich history dating back to the 13th century and involving several phases of development. Prior to c. 1500 the area was part of a Royal Hunting Forest, thereafter a notable tower house for the Maxwell family dominated the local landscape which was laid out in a formal manner with straight avenues and squared enclosures until the end of the 18th century when the tower house was replaced by a mansion designed by Robert Adam for the 5th Earl of Hyndford. This mansion formed the centre piece of a remodelled landscape in which formality was replaced by a more open landscape of extensive parkland, with woodlands used to frame views and define horizons on the surrounding hills and valley sides.

3.7 Landscape improvements undertaken by the Earl of Hyndford were extensive and historically significant. They introduced an integrated network of woodland connecting to the older native woods in the tributary valleys; they also established agricultural patterns still present today and undertook agricultural improvements. Ownership changes in the mid-19th century saw renewed development with the introduction of architectural features by David Bryce including the Mauldslie
Bridge/ Gate Lodge (and new approach drive) and south extension of the Castle. This period also saw the impacts of industry on the landscape in the form of coal mining and associated infrastructure, indicative of similar development throughout Lanarkshire and the Central Belt coalfields.

3.8 The sequence of landownership from Maxwells to Carmichaels to Hoziers and the associated changes in boundaries, subdivisions and land management provide an interesting historical narrative in which each family holds notable individuals and can chart events of local and regional significance. This includes a visit to Mauldslie Castle by King George V and Queen Mary in c.1912.

3.9 The wealth of local history information pertaining to Mauldslie Castle Estate is a valuable educational resource and subject of particular interest for the local community, in particular the Carluke Historical Society which has assisted in this study.

Landscape Design

3.10 The earliest formal landscape design of Mauldslie Castle Estate has been replaced by a largely informal style in which the Castle was the centrepiece of an extensive parkland, and where views within the valley were subtly controlled and framed by valley-side woodlands and by groupings of large parkland trees. The design utilised the natural topography to best advantage, allowing expansive views across the flat valley floor and using elevated prominences on the valley sides as strategic viewpoints over the Clyde at bends in the river. Tributary watercourses were followed and bridged by a network of access routes for recreation and enjoyment of the landscape. The placement and design of buildings in the landscape also created numerous landmarks which became important characteristics of the Clyde Valley. Several of these remain as key features of the landscape and make essential contributions to the overall picturesque composition.

3.11 The Mauldslie Designed landscape is in many respects simple, lacking the complexity of more architectural or more gardenesque designs. Its picturesque simplicity does however create the illusion, as intended, of the Clyde Valley as a parkland corridor in which natural elements are integrated with the introduced landscape components. In this respect the design is a successful work of art of regional significance. Despite the losses of certain landscape features during the 20th century, the designed landscape is still greatly appreciated and used by the local community for recreation, and is an important contributor to the experience of the Clyde Valley landscape as received by visitors and passers-by on the public roads and on the Clyde Walkway.

Architecture

3.12 Whilst the Castle centre piece was lost in the early part of the 20th century, the designed landscape retains numerous architectural features, some prominent and some more discreet. The main architectural elements include:

- The Mauldslie Bridge and Gate Lodge designed by David Bryce and now a significant landmark on the A72 marking the presence of the designed landscape from within the valley. This a Grade A listed building.
- Mauldslie Stables, once a companion to the castle in the valley floor. Parts of this elegant range of buildings remain although the tower has gone and the remainder has been subject to alterations relating to its conversion to dwelling houses.
- Lodge houses remain intact and in use in four locations, marking the former entrances to the Estate: Mauldslie West Lodge, Marna Rosebank, Kenneth Lodge and East Lodge (recent). The North lodge, shown on 19th century maps is no longer extant.
- Farm buildings include Mauldslie House (on the site of the gas works), Mauldslie Mains, Mauldslie Kennels and Mauldslie Cottage.
- Rosebank, which was part of the Estate, and is a conservation area that contains a number of listed buildings along Lanark Road, including the Tudor style Popinjay Hotel.

3.13 The presence of listed buildings at Mauldslie indicates the national significance of the site for its architecture. The contribution of these and of other estate buildings to the character of the local landscape is also significant.
Horticulture

3.14 Although many of the plantings that surrounded the Castle in the early 20th century have been lost, there remains a variety of veteran trees & exotic specimens around the castle site and across the estate. The parkland trees have generally developed broad crowns and many are impressive specimens despite some signs of veteranisation. They contribute significantly to the character of the parkland areas in the valley floor in particular, and one the trees (Silver Maple) is a Scottish Champion. Little remains of the ornamental and structural shrub planting around the castle site, but it can be seen as overgrown specimens in the shrub layer.

Scenic

3.15 The Mauldslie Estate contributed as an important part of the scenic Clyde Valley landscape, which, in its heyday drew many and notable visitors. The views from the Castle would have extended both up and down the wooded valley, and given a strong sense of a wooded valley corridor, enclosed from the exposed moorlands around it. Two historical viewpoints in the woods have been identified, one on a knoll in the NNR, which was part of the paths circuit, the other overlooking the River with views both upstream and downstream from a rock outcrop. This latter viewpoint was set out with railings and trees to frame the views and provide shelter.

3.16 Today these viewpoints are hidden within the woodland, but open views can be obtained from the slopes above the castle site, along the main drive, and from the upper slopes above Rosebank.

3.17 The Mauldslie Castle Estate designed landscape occupies a large part of the Clyde Valley and its upper slopes to the north. It consequently makes an important contribution to the landscape character of the valley and to its scenic qualities as experienced from numerous vantage points along the local road and path network, including the A72 within the trough of the Clyde, and the higher levels routes (such as Mauldslie Road and Manse Brae). This contributes to the scenic values of the area that is designated as a Special Landscape Area. This designation indicates that the Mauldslie landscape’s scenic qualities are of regional significance.

Nature Conservation

3.18 Mauldslie Castle Estate comprises two distinctive landforms: gentle sloping floodplain and steep valleys sides with scoured tributary valleys. The former supports enclosed areas of productive pasture grassland and more natural, neutral grassland adjoining the River Clyde that represents the floral communities which would prevail in the absence of agricultural management. However, it is the latter landform, i.e. the steep valley sides with small gorge-like tributary valleys, that supports the habitats of the greatest ecological interest. Topographic constraints have protected the woodland present on some sections the steep slopes of the Clyde Valley. Consequently, this habitat now represents part of the most extensive complex of woodland gorges with Tilio-Acerion forests (mixed upland ash woods) in Scotland and are recognised, through formal designation (SAC), as being of international conservation value. The woodlands are atypical in Central Scotland because of their ground-flora which includes herb-Paris Paris quadrifolia and pendulous sedge Carex pendula both of which have a distinctly southern distribution in the UK.

Recreational/ Educational

3.19 The Mauldslie Castle Estate designed landscape is a valued resource for recreation enjoyed by the local communities, visitors to the area and by walkers. It is used regularly for dog walking and exercising by locals using the footpath network for circular trails. It is also traversed by walkers on the Clyde Walkway, one of Scotland’s major strategic trails which enables visitors to experience the valley landscapes and heritage sequentially and comprehensively, also providing links to settlements and key heritage sites along the valley.

3.20 Mauldslie is also a highly favoured site for angling and benefits from the public access from the A72. The presence of the NNR also provides opportunities for appreciation of the area’s natural heritage and for related educational activities. Signage and interpretation is available to convey information about the site but this could potentially be made more effective.
4 Risks and Opportunities

Introduction

4.1 Mauldslie Castle Estate is currently owned and managed by several parties which makes it difficult to agree and deliver a unified strategy for the conservation of the landscape. This results in a number of risks for the heritage of the site as outlined below. Conversely the designed landscape is a significant resource which has unrealised potential for education, public and private enjoyment, and for the conservation of heritage assets, both natural and built features. The following paragraphs outline some of the main risks and opportunities associated with the Mauldslie Castle Estate landscape.

Inaction

4.2 Risks associated with inaction include:
- Degradation of remaining historic structures, loss of remaining metal fences;
- Deterioration of woodlands where unmanaged;
- Incremental loss without replacement of veteran trees;
- Loss of views and changes to scenic qualities through unmanaged growth or loss of trees;
- Danger to public from unsafe trees close to paths;
- Deterioration of paths to an unsafe condition preventing public access;
- Loss of historic paths from unchecked vegetation growth, landslip or drainage damage;
- Incremental decline in biodiversity from lack of management to woodlands and grasslands;
- Continued sporadic vandalism damage to trees and structures within public areas of the landscape;

New Development & Landuses

4.3 Risks associated with New Developments in the landscape include:
- Local loss of built and natural heritage features through clearance related to potential new developments;
- Visual intrusion of new developments in the landscape potentially affecting scenic qualities and designed intentions;
- Detrimental impacts to the setting of existing listed buildings from insensitive extensions or developments within their curtilage (e.g. garden structures, garages etc.);
- Potential loss of agricultural shelterbelts through clearance or intensification;
- Potential restrictions to public access from route severance by development or by new restrictions from landowners;
- Damage to or loss of designed landscape features from new land uses e.g. introduction of car parks, yard space; new recreational facilities; new agricultural land uses and associated structures;

4.4 Potential opportunities associated with new developments or land uses may include:
- Removal and replacement of existing insensitive/intrusive developments with more discreet or better designed developments;
- Developments which include a programme of conservation and bring areas of the landscape into positive management;
- Developments which enable the restoration of lost/blocked access routes for both private and public use;
- Development of appropriately sited and designed visitor/interpretation facilities could increase the public understanding of the landscape and support educational/recreational activities;

**Access & Increased Visitor Numbers**

4.5 Risks associated with Access in the landscape include:

- Loss of the historic access network through physical damage and degradation e.g. by landslip, vegetation growth, water erosion or braiding of paths;
- Restrictions to public access by landowners concerned about security and privacy potentially preventing the establishment of walking circuits in the designed landscape;
- Restrictions to access for the less mobile due to the condition of the path surfaces and obstructions on the public paths e.g. fallen trees, steps, potholes, gates etc.
- Increased public access could result in accelerated wear & tear on paths and may lead to damage of heritage features (accidental and deliberate);
- Potentially intrusive access developments where new paths, roads and car parks are required to serve the public.

4.6 Potential opportunities associated with Access developments include:

- The restoration of abandoned historic routes and features could increase the enjoyment of the designed landscape, provide new recreational and educational experiences, and would reinstate the integrity of the landscape in accordance with the original design intent;
- Well considered access developments and access management could potentially resolve conflicts between the landowners and the public, and reduce antisocial behaviour by increasing the numbers of people present;
- Well-designed access developments could potentially improve the character and visual amenity of the landscape;
- Improved access to the river would encourage anglers and would increase the awareness of the river as a valued resource;
- Improved or new path linkages could improve connectivity with the wider area and link core paths to create a better path network.

**Climate Change**

4.7 Climate change is resulting in more extreme and uncertain weather patterns across the world. The extremes of weather together with spreading plant diseases present the most immediate risks to the designed landscape. These include:

- Wind damage to the remaining veteran trees and mature woodland;
- Drought or waterlogging damage to established trees and woodlands;
- Flooding risks with increased rainfall and river flow causing loss of usable land, erosion and damage to historic structures such as bridges;
- Accelerated spread of plant diseases which may affect established native species.
4.8 Climate change may present some opportunities particularly in proactive management measures. Opportunities may include:

- Woodland management to improve age and species diversity and to tackle emerging disease threats;
- Design and management of access routes to withstand more extreme weather conditions, e.g. integrated drainage / more robust construction;
- Opportunities for education regarding Climate Change and sustainability.

**Management**

4.9 The current landownership divisions present particular complications and risks for management which include:

- The current ownership arrangements (including public, private residential and utility company owners) results in different management objectives for the site. This makes it difficult to achieve a unified strategy for the designed landscape as a whole;
- The site owners also have different capabilities and resources to deploy on landscape management. This can potentially limit the ability of the collective to deliver an integrated plan.

4.10 This Conservation Management Plan and the Landscape Partnership Scheme for the Clyde & Avon Valley present an opportunity to secure funding towards an integrated plan and hopefully this will provide an incentive for the various landowners to work together for the benefit of the Mauldslie Castle Estate landscape heritage. In addition there may be opportunities to secure greater community and volunteer involvement in the management and care of the landscape.
5 Conservation Aims and Objectives

Introduction

5.1 The Mauldslie Castle Estate was once a fine example of a 19th century estate, with a large castle and extensive grounds and estate farmland. Following its break-up in the 1933 sale, and with its current patchwork of ownership, the estate will never be whole again, and conservation aims should reflect this fact. While management recommendations can be made to landowners, they are not under obligation to undertake them on their own private land. Management agreements have been reached for the Jock’s Gill SSSI, which exert more influence in this area, but for the rest of the estate in private ownership, prescriptive management instructions are not possible or appropriate.

5.2 The character and scenic qualities of the Mauldslie Castle Estate landscape are however defined by the legacy of the former unified estate, and if these characteristics are to be preserved then there will be a need for some collective actions, and for individual landowners to be mindful of how their actions could affect the experience of the landscape as a whole. It is hoped that this document will provide an understanding of the local heritage and reasons for its protection and enhancement. The latter will have a wide range of benefits for all parties and it is hoped that these will encourage positive site-sensitive management by all landowners and others involved in activities within the Mauldslie landscape. Furthermore the information contained in this report can assist the planning authority in assessing the potential implications of developments in the Mauldslie Castle Estate landscape, and in so doing enable any new developments to be planned in a way that is respectful of the local heritage and scenic qualities.

5.3 For the remainder of this Conservation Management Plan, therefore, advice for areas under private ownership is broad, takes the form of recommendations with justifications as to why landowners should consider taking the actions forward, and information about funding opportunities to enable them to do so. More detailed management recommendations are made for the council owned part of the estate, over which there are mechanisms to implement the works. The land ownership pattern is shown in Figure 2.

5.4 This section of the Plan sets out the Aims and Objectives for the conservation of Mauldslie Castle Estate designed landscape, focussing on the parkland and NNR woodland compartments. For reference, the estate has been divided into compartments as shown on Figure 4, with areas in public ownership listed first:

- Compartment 1: Valley Floor Parkland
- Compartment 2: Valley Side Woodland NNR
- Compartment 3: Former Castle Core
- Compartment 4: Scottish Water Sewage Works (valley floor)
- Compartment 5: Former Kitchen Garden (valley floor development area)
- Compartment 6: Jock’s Gill Woodland
- Compartment 7: North Agricultural Enclosures
- Compartment 8: South Agricultural Enclosures
- Compartment 9: Rosebank

5.5 The following aims and objectives respond directly to the conservation needs, significance, risks and opportunities identified earlier. These earlier sections provide the detailed background to the policies and their justification. Often the aims and objectives overlap with each other, or spread across more than one compartment of the estate. This section sets out the aims and objectives under the following key themes:
Conservation Aims

5.6 Overarching Conservation Aims for the designed landscape are listed below. While some of these are aspirational given the pattern of private land ownership, they are nonetheless important for the wider estate as a whole:

- A fundamental aim is to preserve and conserve the existing heritage values of Mauldslie Castle Estate, with priority given to the attributes and features of greatest significance;
- The future integrity of the wider Mauldslie Castle Estate designed landscape depends on a co-operative approach to conservation and management in which all owners engage positively in agreeing and helping to deliver conservation objectives;
- Whilst accommodating the private land uses of different owners it is the aim to agree and deliver extended and improved public access through the designed landscape;
- Through collective efforts the project will strive to repair those elements of the designed landscape in need of restoration, with priority given to those which determine the scenic character of the area, and which are needed to enhance public access and education.
- Through collective efforts the project aims to reduce or correct detrimental changes where possible subject to future budget availability and landowner agreements;
- The key remnants of the designed landscape are predominantly from the early to middle part of the 19th century. Conservation should reflect the importance of this period in establishing the character and scenic qualities of this area of the Clyde valley;
- Restoration work should ideally utilise only high quality materials and species selection matching those originally used in the Victorian period.
- Future plantings and woodland management should respond to the 19th century planting patterns and should carefully balance nature conservation with other objectives e.g. retention of exotic specimens in key locations;
- Any new facilities deemed necessary for modern visitors should be located and designed in a way which ensures that they have no adverse impact on the designed landscape and that they are reversible. New features with no historic precedent should be recognisably of contemporary design (not pastiche) but sympathetic to the character of the designed landscape.
- No action should be taken which damages the nature conservation values of the place. Adaptations of the designed landscape to suit nature conservation objectives should be compatible with the conservation of the historic designed landscape.
- The conservation process should provide opportunities for public participation and learning about the heritage of Mauldslie.

Conservation Objectives

5.7 Conservation objectives are defined by landscape compartment as follows. Compartments are identified on Figure 4).

Compartment 1: Valley Floor Parkland

5.8 This compartment is owned by South Lanarkshire Council.
Objectives:

- **C1**: To restore the historic metal fences and associated gateway structures and to replace timber fence tree guards with metal fences;
- **C2**: To undertake tree surgery to veteran trees, addressing deadwood and stag headed branching and to introduce replacement parkland trees in appropriate locations where historic specimens have been lost or are in serious decline;
- **C3**: To bring the screen woodland into positive management, including thinning and selective clearance to allow the development of parkland specimens and long term functionality. To make its species mix more compatible with the historic planting selection and parkland design principles used in the 19th century;

Justification

5.9 Repair and restoration of metal fences to good stock proof condition will allow the removal of recently introduced timber fences and the associated clutter of duplicated fences. The restoration of the metal fences and use of metal fences to protect trees in grazing areas will reinforce the character of the designed landscape especially along the main access routes. Some discarded and disused (broken) fence sections may be reclaimed from elsewhere on the estate (such as hidden in woodland) and reinstated, but restoration costs may be high.

5.10 Several veteran trees have been lost and others are in decline. Replacements are therefore required to preserve the character of the remaining parkland landscape. Replacements should be of appropriate species and located carefully to contribute positively to the character of the designed landscape.

5.11 The screen woodland to the south-west of the sewage works was introduced c. 20 years ago, and is unmanaged and has developed into thickets rather than sustainable woodland. Thinning is required and adjustments to the species mix should be made in order to create woodland belts and groups complementary to the parkland landscape and historic plantings, while still maintaining the screening function.

Compartment 2: Valley Side Woodland NNR

5.12 This compartment is owned by South Lanarkshire Council, and the NNR is managed in conjunction with SNH.

Objectives

- **C4**: To actively manage the NNR woodland for a high quality area of woodland with continuous cover\(^3\), for nature conservation and education, and to explore how the NNR woodland could be used for woodland management demonstrations and the development of associated skills in woodwork and nature conservation;
- **C5**: To explore how the NNR woodland could be used more effectively for education, training and recreation as a complementary part of the Clyde Valley suite of NNR sites i.e. though providing experiences not possible within the more heavily protected and less accessible parts of the NNR. To explore the potential for woodland-themed recreation, potentially involving natural play facilities built from local or estate-grown timber;
- **C6**: To explore whether there is capacity for community and local business/craft involvement in the management of the woodland including commercial opportunities associated with timber extraction/ coppicing and wood products etc.;
- **C7**: To improve access for a range of abilities and to restore historic path routes together with associated structures, although topographic constraints may limit opportunities in some areas;
- **C8**: To restore the historic viewpoint together with strategic interpretation, and to create a viewpoint at the Clyde Walkway.

\(^3\) The 'continuous cover' indicated here refers to the area remaining as woodland, rather than a requirement for continued closed canopy woodland.
5.13 This area is woodland designated as part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR, and needs to remain as high quality woodland to reflect this status. However, this part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR lacks the sensitivity of the other sections of the NNR and because the topography is not as steep as other areas, it has safer conditions for access by the general public. These conditions provide an opportunity to undertake woodland themed education and recreation activities not possible in other more sensitive and inaccessible parts of the NNR.

5.14 The role of the NNR woodlands in the designed landscape at Mauldslie relate to the North Drive, along which the castle was approached during the late 18th century, and the role of the woodland as a backdrop to the castle. It is important, therefore, that the North Drive is maintained, and that the area remains as woodland.

Compartment 3: Former Castle Core

5.15 This compartment is under private ownership.

Objectives

- C9: To maintain veteran trees/ conifer groves and control overgrowth;
- C10: To support the landowner in the preservation of historic earthwork terraces formerly pertaining to the Castle, and to avoid disturbance to remaining features;
- C11: To consider how the former castle could be interpreted within the landscape.

Justification

5.16 The specimen trees and earthwork terraces represent the main visible legacy of the former castle landscape and help to interpret how the castle related to site. The trees are recognisable in old photographs of the castle and its surroundings.

5.17 For many visitors the history of the site is unknown or only partially known; strategic interpretation would help to explain how and why the landscape developed in relation to the lost castle centrepiece. This could take the form of an interpretation panel located on the main drive so that public access to the private land area is not required.

Compartment 4: Scottish Water Sewage Works (valley floor)

5.18 This compartment is owned by Scottish Water.

Objectives

- C12: To preserve the screening function of the woodland and hedges on the site, and to maintain character with respect to the early 19th century through species selection. To combine nature conservation and scenic interest in restocking and in management measures.

Justification

5.19 It is desirable to retain the integrity of the screen around the sewage works but measures to make this woodland more sympathetic to the designed landscape are possible, especially around the outer edges where scalloping, spatial variation and specimen tree interest could enhance the experience of the landscape, especially for those using the Clyde Walkway nearby.

Compartment 5: Former Kitchen Garden (valley floor development area)

5.20 This compartment is currently under development and will be owned by private landowners according to the division of plots. It is being called ‘Mauldslie Orchard’.

Objectives

- C13: To preserve and maintain the old fruit trees retained by the recent development, and to encourage the preservation and protection of existing parkland trees within the paddock areas, and the introduction of replacement parkland trees;
- C14: To encourage retention of a visually permeable boundary to the proposed paddocks in order to preserve the open parkland character in this part of the designed landscape. To
encourage the use of sympathetic boundaries to paddocks and tree guards, particularly the use of metal fences.

**Justification**

5.21 The heritage of this area has been removed by the on-going development but it is possible to retain some of the essential characteristics of the landscape by relatively simple measures as outlined above. Conversely the introduction of solid fences and perimeter planting around the paddocks would be intrusive and would compromise the historic parkland character and its associated intervisibility.

**Compartment 6: Jock’s Gill Woodland**

5.22 This compartment is under private ownership.

**Objectives**

- C15: To monitor the health, manage and maintain the woodland, to protect the habitats and to meet SSSI status requirements;
- C16: To restore the historic access routes including the stepped path, bridge and metal fences;
- C17: To restore the historic viewpoint and undertake associated tree management to open up views over the Clyde;

**Justification**

5.23 There is a probability of the spread of invasive species and potentially of tree diseases (e.g. Ash Die Back) along Jock’s Gill and other parts of the Clyde Valley Woodlands. If not currently subject to monitoring and management, this would be beneficial to enable prompt action or forward planning.

5.24 Jock’s Gill is currently difficult to access, limiting options for linkages to/from the north. The restoration of historic routes would increase access options for the Estate and enable wider experience of its landscapes.

5.25 Restoration of the viewpoint would complement the viewpoint in the NNR woodland, providing two strategic vantage points from which to view the River Clyde meanders and to interpret the local landscape.

**Compartment 7: North Agricultural Enclosures**

5.26 This compartment is under private ownership.

**Objectives**

- C18: To restore/ preserve shelterbelts including their distinctive chamfers at field corners;

**Justification**

5.27 Restoration and restocking of the shelterbelts would reinstate the distinctive historic spatial patterns in this area of the estate and enhance the character of the landscape. In addition, these linear woodlands would create valuable linkages between different areas of woodland with benefits to the local habitat network.

**Compartment 8: South Agricultural Enclosures**

5.28 This compartment is under private ownership.

**Objectives**

- C19: To restore/ preserve shelterbelts, through woodland management and replacement of trees.

**Justification**

5.29 The woodlands on the south side of the valley form important visual horizons and the boundary definition for the estate. They are also valuable parts of the local habitat and access networks.
Their integrity is therefore important not only to the designed landscape, but also for nature conservation.

**Compartment 9: Rosebank**

5.30 This compartment is under private ownership.

**Objectives**
- C20: To engage with the community during the preparation and implementation of the proposed Rosebank Village Plan;
- C22: To undertake tree surgery/ replacements to veteran trees along Clatty Brae.

**Justification**

5.31 The Clyde Valley villages have suffered from a range of poorly designed new development which fails to respect the surrounding townscape or landscape. Typical issues relate to imported speculative house designs which do not relate to the vernacular and an absence of urban design to create characterful new 'townscape'. Village development plans together with Conservation Area Appraisals could inform a new vernacular for the Clyde Valley in Rosebank and other villages.

5.32 Clatty Brae is a historical route with a distinctive avenue character. It forms an important visual horizon and boundary definition for the estate. The trees are also valuable parts of the local habitat and access networks. The integrity of this avenue is therefore important.

**Access Aims**

5.33 Access Aims for Mauldslie can be summarised as follows:
- The Clyde Walkway should reflect its status as a strategic long distance path;
- Public access within the Estate should be extended through creating new circuits across council owned land and linkages with external path networks, while recognising issues of health and safety and privacy (locations for possible links are shown on Figure 5);
- Opportunities for new path links and circuits that cross privately owned land should also be explored, but planned and managed in a way that avoids conflicts with landowners and residents and their security;
- Physical conditions should be improved to facilitate access for all levels of mobility where possible along the Clyde Walkway and any newly established public paths within the Mauldslie Castle designed landscape;
- Viewpoints within the estate should be restored to allow an appreciation of the valley setting, and to provide respite at seating benches;
- Access to the graveyard on Haugh Hill should be restored;
- New access links and visitor facilities should be located and designed to avoid detriment to the heritage and historic character of the designed landscape;
- Facilities for education and interpretation can be improved in imaginative ways which are also sympathetic to the historic character of the place, reflecting existing visitor demand (which may increase in future). This should improve the effectiveness of signage throughout the designed landscape and especially along the Clyde Walkway and in the NNR;
- The impact of motorised vehicles should be kept to a minimum within the designed landscape whilst accommodating essential access for residents/ landowners, servicing, maintenance and access for the disabled;
- Different types of visitor, such as pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and anglers should be managed in different ways to accommodate all uses on the estate, and avoid conflict.
Access Objectives

A1: Upgrade Clyde Walkway
- To upgrade the surfaces of the Clyde Walkway with consistency of materials and width;
- To make the Clyde Walkway more accessible to a wider user group e.g. by replacing steps with ramps;
- To reinstate and improve signage and associated user facilities.

Justification
5.34 The Clyde Walkway is a major strategic access route in Lanarkshire with the potential to bring visitors to the area and to allow the local communities better access to the heritage of the valley. It is currently in a mixed and informal condition which underplays the status of the path and may deter some users, and limits disabled access. The Clyde Walkway is managed and monitored through SLC Countryside Access Management System.

A2: Restore Woodland Paths
- To restore historic access routes and associated structures (bridges, steps where necessary) to allow better appreciation of the designed landscape and its natural heritage;
- To develop path networks capable of providing circular trails and avoiding sensitive areas such as private property;
- To increase the potential for public access without disturbance of the residents within the estate;
- To provide access links to the path networks outside the estate, fulfilling the Core Path objectives where possible;

Justification
5.35 Restoration of the historic access network will encourage visitors to the Mauldslie Castle Estate and enable more effective interpretation of the landscape, both as a remnant historic landscape and as a modern working landscape.

A3: Viewpoints
- To restore the two historic viewpoints and undertake associated tree management to open up views over the Clyde. To restore their access links from the path network;
- To create a viewpoint on the Clyde Walkway within the NNR that has views along the River Clyde.

Justification
5.36 Restoration of the historic viewpoints in the NNR and SSSI woodlands would provide two strategic vantage points from which to view the River Clyde meanders and to interpret the local landscape. A new viewpoint should be created at a point on the Clyde Walkway with views along the river. This is also an ideal location to provide a bench for respite for walkers.

A4: Graveyard access
- To restore access to the graveyard in a way that does not impinge on landowner security.

Justification
5.37 The graveyard is currently inaccessible due to overgrown of vegetation and issues with access over private land at the gate. Consultation has revealed that there is public interest in restoring access to the graveyard.
Management Aims

5.38 Management Aims for Mauldslie overlap closely with the aims for Conservation and Access above, but provide longer term aims for assets once they have been brought into active management. Ongoing future Management Aims can be summarised as follows:

- Active woodland management to maintain trees, woodlands and shelterbelts in the long term;
- Active management of demonstration plots to within the NNR showcase different woodland management techniques;
- Management of the estate, and particularly the woodlands and river banks should be carried out with nature conservation interests in mind.

Management Objectives

M1: Set up a Management Forum for Mauldslie Castle Estate

- To establish a forum through which collective management actions can be agreed and common issues addressed by the different landowners;
- To examine how a Forum might be able to raise funds in its own right for collective conservation-management actions.

Justification

5.39 The establishment of a Forum or similar body would allow issues of common interest to be discussed by the Mauldslie landowners, it would also provide a decision making forum for collective management actions. It is recognised that it may be difficult to engage all private landowners but nevertheless such a body, meeting say twice a year, could be useful information sharing mechanism and could help to build a collective consciousness and responsibility for the landscape. It would be logical for SLC or SNH to act as the chair for such a body i.e. to provide stability and continuity.

M2: Active Woodland Management

- To actively manage the veteran and specimen trees on the estate;
- To actively manage the woodlands and shelterbelts on the estate.

Justification

5.40 Woodlands need to be actively managed to provide long lasting habitats that contribute positively to the landscape and the biodiversity of an area. Some woodlands also have additional functions such as for screening or shelter. These woodlands also need to be managed so that those functions can be performed. It is therefore essential to maintain the woodlands in good condition.

M3: Woodland Demonstrations

- To explore how the NNR woodland could be used for woodland management demonstrations and the development of associated skills in woodwork and nature conservation;

Justification

5.41 This part of the Clyde Valley Woodlands NNR lacks the sensitivity of the other sections of the NNR, in part because the topography is not as steep as other areas of the NNR, and being more accessible, it has a different history from the other areas of the NNR. Because this woodland has been managed in the past, there is the opportunity to actively intervene in the woodland that is not possible for other NNRs where ancient woodland is of high sensitivity to disturbance. These conditions provide a unique opportunity to prove a showcase for active woodland management techniques, such as coppicing, pollarding, but also to manage areas specifically for their habitat or the species they support.
M4: Nature Conservation

- To ensure that works on the estate have consideration for nature conservation;
- To provide education, through interpretation and visits.

**Justification**

5.42 The Mauldslie Estate is valued for its nature conservation value, not only the NNR and SSSI, but the rest of the estate is a valuable asset for local wildlife. Management works should be considered in terms of their potential impacts or benefits to habitats and wildlife. The following paragraphs set out detailed advice regarding restrictions to works for nature conservation interests, which are reflected in the Actions later in the Plan.

**Biodiversity Management**

5.43 The following management recommendations are based on the results of the Ecological Appraisal.

**General Considerations**

5.44 To support a wide range of nature conservation interests, maintain a good range of tree and shrub species in gardens and along road and track margins, as these will give variety of bark surfaces in terms of bark texture and acidity. Elder is worth encouraging, especially older specimens as its rough bark can be an important bryophyte habitat;

5.45 Reduction of impact on wildlife can be achieved by avoiding spraying vegetation with herbicides or other chemicals. Spraying directly onto trees and shrubs is best avoided.

**Mammals**

5.46 There are otters living on the River Clyde. A targeted otter survey, essential prior to any works within 250m of the River Clyde and its tributaries

5.47 Mature trees offer high potential roosting sites for bats and, therefore, should not be felled or trimmed without a prior inspection for bat presence by a suitability qualified ecologist, who may advise of further survey and licence requirements. Any works within 50m of mature trees should be discussed with an ecologist first.

5.48 There are badgers living on the estate. Any management works proposed within 100m of a badger sett should be discussed with an ecologist and may require a licence.

**Woodland**

5.49 The broad-leaved woodland at the site is of notable conservation value and, a proportion, falls under national and international natural heritage designation. Given that the woodland status is considered to be ‘favourable’ for Jock’s Gill, it is recommended that the status quo is maintained, i.e. short of non-native invasive species control no management activities should be undertaken in the existing woodland. This will include retaining deadwood - deadwood can provide important micro-habitats for fungi, bryophytes and invertebrates.

5.50 Woodland connectivity is important in the dispersal of birds and mammals. Whilst woodland fragmentation, at a landscape scale, is not a significant issue at the site, planting of native trees and shrub in small gaps between woodland blocks would be beneficial as even small gaps can discourage faunal movements.

**Hedgerows**

5.51 The following generic management considerations would improve the nature conservation value of hedgerows:

- Rotational cutting of hedgerows. Much of the value of hedgerow habitats to wildlife lies in there dense structure which offers nesting, hibernation and forage opportunities for mammals, invertebrates and birds. In addition, dense hedgerows provide shade and mimic woodlands, therefore, offering opportunities for woodland plants to grow. Denser structures and fuller fruiting can be enhanced by ensuring that no single hedge is cut more than once every second or third year, and that different sides of each hedgerow are cut on alternate years.

- Planting of gaps in hedgerows with native woody species improved connectivity for wildlife, although, small gaps (e.g. less than 2-3 m) generally do not discourage wildlife movement.
Where gaps greater than this are present, planting of native species is recommended, suggested species include hawthorn, beech, holly and ash.

- Allowing a grassy margin at the base of all hedges promotes a dense growth of grassland species which are beneficial to mammals, invertebrates and birds. Verges may be cut once or twice annually and the arising clippings removed.

**Invasive species control**

5.52 A river catchment survey of invasive species is being carried out to identify the spread of invasive species that disperse down watercourses. Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) is dispersed along watercourses, and control should ideally start from the upstream source to avoid reinfection. Japanese knotweed was recorded at on the eastern bank of the River Clyde and is known to grow on sections of riverbank upstream. The stand was relatively small (40m²) and should be controlled (chemically or mechanically) before it spreads into adjacent habitats, including inland towards the Mauldslie Wood NNR and further downstream. Although eradication may not be possible due to the presence of the species upstream of Mauldslie, control on the estate will reduce the problem for the future. Japanese knotweed can negatively influence biodiversity by out-competing native flora. Additional information on the ecology and control of Japanese knotweed can be accessed from the Environment Agency4.

5.53 Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) is an invasive non-native shrub that, once established, alters environmental conditions by casting excessive shade. Where it exists, the shrub typically dominates the habitat and can often be the only species present below the tree canopy. Eventually, only the rhododendron persists as trees die and seedlings cannot survive in the shaded conditions below the shrub canopy. Mechanical removal of rhododendron is recommended as chemical applications have limited success due to the waxy coating on the leaves. Rhododendron brash and leaf litter should be removed to encourage the regeneration of native woodland. Additional information on the ecology and control of rhododendron can be accessed from the Forestry Commission5.

5.54 Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) has also been a problem on the estate. Measures to control it have been undertaken in Mauldslie Woods in the past. This ornamental plant propagates vegetatively, and although it can provide shelter and food sources, it can also take over understory habitats.

**New Work Aims**

5.55 New Work Aims for Mauldslie can be summarised as follows:

- Improvements to visitor parking facilities should be provided to meet visitor demand, but should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to the historic setting;

- There are opportunities to create a strategy and style for signage and interpretation that supports the existing network and guides visitors around the estate, as well as creating a source of information about the history and nature conservation values of the area or particular features / locations on the estate;

- There should be aims to increase understanding of the historic value of the estate and elements within for planning regulators and decision makers as well as landowners on and adjacent to the estate.

**New Work Objectives**

**N1: Visitor Parking Facilities**

- To improve visitor car parking facilities;

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4 [http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/japnkot_1_a_1463028.pdf](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/static/documents/Leisure/japnkot_1_a_1463028.pdf)
5 [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcpg017.pdf/$file/fcpg017.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcpg017.pdf)
• To introduce cycle parking facilities.

Justification

5.56 Improvements are required to visitor parking facilities to cater for the current visitor numbers, and to cater for increased visitor numbers once other access features are improved. The location of these facilities should be sited so as to avoid loss of character to the open parkland. The provision of cycle parking facilities will also encourage local visitors to consider alternative means of transport to access the estate, although cycling on the estate will need to be managed.

5.57 It will be important to consider the impact on the heritage of the designed landscape when designing and siting these facilities.

N2: Signage and interpretation

• To improve interpretation on the site;
• To improve visitor orientation around the site;
• To create a consistent signage style for the estate.

Justification

5.58 Interpretation of the estate and the components of it will enhance the visitor experience of the estate, and will contribute to visitor education and learning. Subject matter can include the history of the asset, its contribution to the landscape, and ecological value.

5.59 Improvements are required to visitor orientation facilities, to introduce the improvements to the path network, including management of disabled visitors, cyclists and horse riders on paths that may not be suitable for them.

5.60 An estate style of signage, which can be very simple, will add to the character of the designed landscape and provide a sense of unity across the estate. There are existing signage styles relating to the NNR and the Clyde Walkway. Any new styles to give the visitor the sense of arrival at Mauldslie will need to integrate with these, or be designed in such a way as to avoid clutter of accumulating signs.

N3: Raising awareness

• To improve understanding of the asset among local people;
• To improve understanding of the asset among council planners;
• To encourage new works to follow design advice.

Justification

5.61 Awareness of the heritage value of the Mauldslie Castle Estate as an asset to the Clyde Valley is important to influence future decisions on potentially unsuitable development that has an impact on the landscape. Improved understanding of the asset will enable planners to make informed decisions and advise potential developers and landowners. There is design guidance for residential development published by South Lanarkshire Council⁶, which encourages developers to consider the historical context of a site.

5.62 Rosebank community is planning to prepare a Village Action Plan in the near future. This is an opportunity to involve the community in their landscape setting, including the Mauldslie Estate.

⁶ South Lanarkshire Council (2011) Residential Design Guide