

Here is the shade of a well peopled wood ¹



CALENDAR PARK

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Callendar Park - FLHS

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“Here is the shade of a well peopled wood” ¹- Callendar Park

Introduction

Callendar Park occupies the northern part of the walled estate policy belonging to the historic seat of Callendar House; the southern portion being woodland is now owned and maintained by the Forestry Commission; and an area in the north-east consists of a business park. The policy rests on a north-facing hill slope on the southern side of the Central Valley, with the land falling from 110m to 35m over a distance of 900m. It is bounded to the north by a glacial esker overlooking the carselands. The Gallow Syke arises from the eastern end of the park and flows north-eastward to join the Almond Pow. Not far away is the source of the East Burn, but it flows westward, separating the park from the town of Falkirk. The distance from the Falkirk Steeple, in the town centre, to Callendar House is only 1.1km.

The northern part of the Callendar Policy formed the pleasure grounds of the House and was substantially laid out as a designed landscape in the 1780s. Until 1963 this was privately owned and the estate wall, with associated gamekeepers, generally kept the public out, except for organised events such as gymkhanas and country fairs. In that year the property was acquired by Falkirk Town Council and was immediately opened up and adapted to its new role as a public park.

Although each generation has left its mark on the park the traces of earlier generations can still be seen and we now inherit a rich landscape replete with layers of history. The amount of detail that we have for the park is rather mushroom shaped, with a good firm base in the Iron Age and Roman periods, burgeoning out after 1680 and becoming overwhelming in the early 19th century. It is this depth of historic activity that is referred to in stanza 131 of the 1681 poem “Patronus Redux”¹, which begins “Here is the shade of a well peopled wood”.

Historical Narrative

IRON AGE

By the late Iron Age, around the second century BC, there were already a lot of people living in the Falkirk area. It was probably population pressure and the developed hierarchical society that led to the construction of hill forts, making it possible for the local elite to defend the area. The large mono-vallate [hill fort](#) at the top of Callendar Hill with its magnificent views was ideally situated to command the locality. It occupies the east end of a ridge 110m above sea level and the ground falls sharply away into the valley of the Glen Burn to the south, and only slightly less steeply into the Forth Valley to the north. The fort is distinguished by a large perimeter ditch forming an oval-shaped enclosure 149m W/E by 77m N/S. Part of

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the rampart is still standing at the SE corner. No excavation has taken place on the site and so it remains undated.

The hill slopes besides the fort are steep and the underlying clay has only a thin cover of gleyed topsoil, but signs of early cultivation can be seen within the wood and may belong to this period. These consist of small areas of rig cultivation, possibly associated with small banks to form a patchwork of irregular fields. The esker at the north end of the park provided better quality soils and here a well-developed agricultural soil was formed below Roman levels (Bailey 1995, 583)². Unenclosed occupation may have occurred on the east bank of the East Burn, where pits have been found under the Roman road (Bailey forthcoming)³. They would have formed part of the large dispersed settlement, whose centre in the late Roman period lay near Wormit Hill.



Illus 1:

The Ditch of the Hill Fort with the Park Wall in the background and Hallglen beyond.

ROMAN

The coming of the Roman army provides a set date horizon in the early landscape. The northern strip of the park area quickly became a militarized zone, from which its previous occupants were ejected (a roundhouse was found on the line of the Wall at Mary Square in Laurieston only 300m east of Callendar Park – Dunwell et al 2002, 260-267)⁴. After the surveyors had chosen the line of the new frontier construction work began c142AD on the linear barrier that is now known as the Antonine Wall. The Wall utilised the glacial esker with the Rampart occupying the crest of the W/E ridge. At the west end of the park it deviates to the south in order to ease the

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descent into the East Burn. On the east it abruptly turns to the north, descends the esker, and turns to cross the Gallow Syke and make a gradual ascent of the Gallow Hill. The Rampart here was originally made of earth, dug from the Ditch, retained by thin cheeks of turf. This form of construction was necessitated by the lack of turf in the locality due to the extent of the existing arable land.

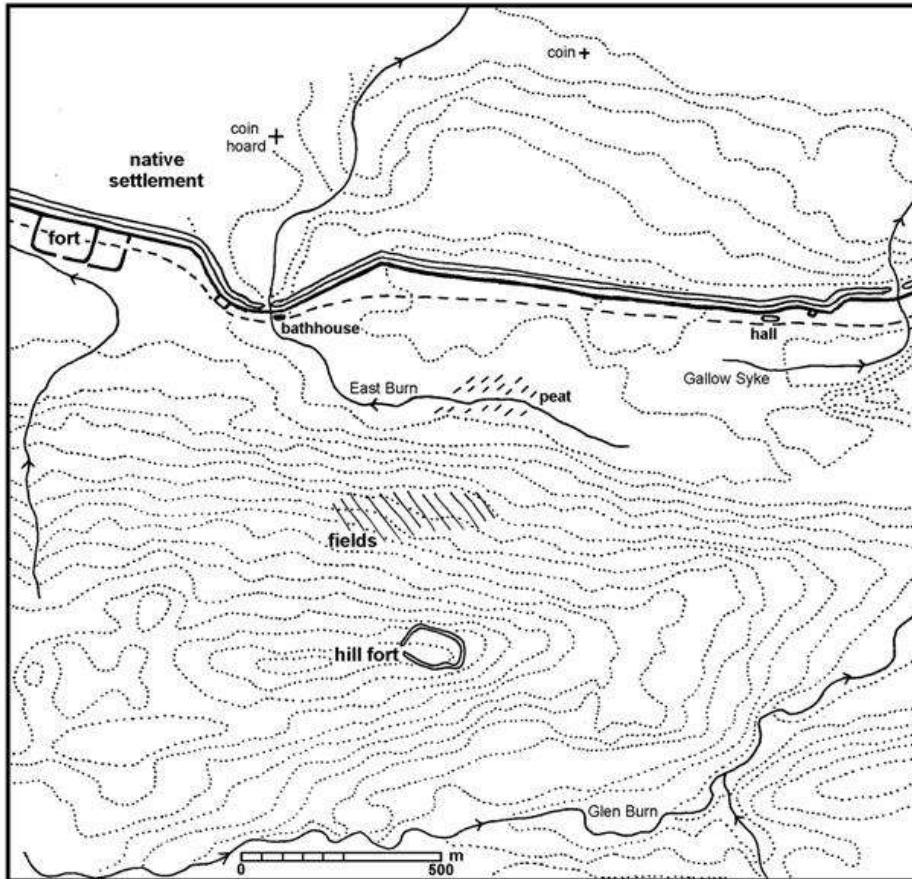
Illus 2: The Antonine Ditch looking West.



The formidable Ditch, 8.2m wide and 4.3m deep, is still very visible. Much of the spoil from it went into the core of the Rampart, but some was thrown to the north to create an upcast mound, thus accentuating the north lip of the Ditch. Between the Ditch and the Rampart several rows of defensive pits were placed on the berm (Bailey 1995)². Unlike similar pits at Rough castle which held sharpened stakes set at or just below ground level, these seem to have housed pointed branches to form entanglements. Behind the Wall was a road, known as the Military Way, made up of a thin spread of gravel laid directly onto the subsoil. This connected the forts at Falkirk and Mumrills. Near the NE corner of the park a hearth was found 7m to the south of the Rampart. Broken Roman cooking pots and a thin floor of clay show that the hearth was part of a timber building attached to the back of the Wall. A substantial timber post, 0.3m square, set into the south face of the Rampart at this point suggests that the building may have been an integral part of a watchtower (Bailey 1995)². Beside the East Burn, just outside the park wall, a bathhouse was built to take advantage of the water supply (Keppie & Murray 1981)⁵. It is unusually far from the fort and may have served an extramural settlement or *vicus* to its east.

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The Roman Wall took about three years to build, but was only occupied for twenty. In the 160s AD the Wall was partly demolished and abandoned.



Illus 3:
Contour Plan of the Callendar Park Area (contours omitted from the area of the town). The Fort at Falkirk and the Bathhouse at the East Burn are part of the Antonine Wall. The Hall is tenth century.

DARK AGE

The Military Way connected with roads to the east and remained the main land route across the waist of Scotland for centuries. Along it arose the early churches, castles and towns. Falkirk continued as a settlement and the church of St Modan was erected on its western fringe. The chief's dwelling, however, was built right beside the Roman road – between it and the decaying Rampart – on Palace Hill in Callendar Park. The date of its first erection is unknown, though the presence of samian, used as a status symbol for decades after the Romans left, may indicate that it was early. It was rebuilt in the 10th century as a great hall in a fusion of Pictish and Anglian architectural styles. The timber hall was 25m long and 7m wide with apsidal ends and a door in the centre of the long south wall. There was a central line of posts and stone paving (Bailey 2007)⁶.

The hall would have been the centre of a small community, with other smaller buildings in the vicinity. The Roman Wall was probably repaired at this point to form the north side of a defended enclosure with the Gallow Syke to the south. The water meadows to the south and east would have been valuable pasture for horses.

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Perhaps the eskers at the east end of the park provided a naturally secure enclosure for them (the esker heading south-east for Westquarter was often mistaken by antiquarians as a rampart). For centuries cavalry provided the most effective military force available and created important centres of power.



Illus 4: Archaeological Excavation of the Thane's Hall showing the Foundation Trenches and part of the Paving.

By the early 12th century the area is associated with the powerful Thanes of Callendar and we can assume that the hall belonged to them. The Christian names of the family indicate that it was Celtic and had deep roots in the area. The name Callendar, which is associated with the home of the Thanes and not with the adjacent town of Falkirk, has an even earlier origin. It appears as "Calathros" in 634AD and in various other forms over the centuries. It is to be equated with the land "between Haefe and Caere" – the River Avon and the River Carron – mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon chronicle in 710AD. This is a large swath of land located at a strategic point in Scotland, showing that the thane must have possessed a strong military force, presumably with cavalry prominent.

The south-west approach to the timber hall was protected by a peat bog that had accumulated in the head of the valley of the East Burn. Water running off the hill to the south was trapped here by the poor drainage at the west end of the park, in part caused by the abandonment of the Roman Wall. Over the centuries the dying vegetation accumulated under anaerobic condition to form deep layers of peat. This was used as fuel and it may be this that heated the saltpans on the coast. It has been suggested that the billets depicted on the coat-of-arms of the Callendar family represent timber cut from the woodland, but peat blocks would be more appropriate.

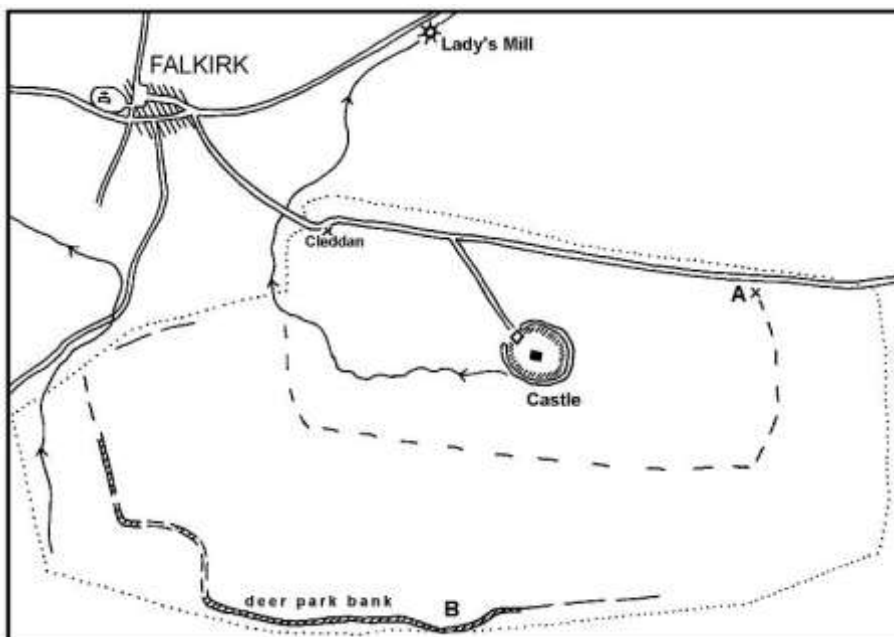
The Roman road became too potholed and rutted to continue in use and the line was moved a little to the north onto the upcast mound. Here the Ditch to the south and the north-facing hill slope kept it free of surface water, and the gravel dug out of the ditch provided a firm bed.

MEDIEVAL

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Sixteen or so inhumations were found just to the east of the “Thane’s Hall” in 1849. By the medieval period, however, it became customary for the leading nobles to be buried in the parish churchyard. The title of thane persisted until c1250, at which time the smaller barony of Callendar was created. In the mid - 14th century the Callendar family fell from favour due to its support for the Balliol cause. The barony was gifted to the Livingstons. James Livingston promptly married Christian de Calyntar, the daughter of the previous lord, and the new coat-of-arms amalgamated those of the two families. Shortly afterwards the site of the main dwelling was moved, and along with it the style of building changed.

The new dwelling was a typical tower house of the period with walls 6-8ft thick. The new site was set back from the main road and was at first sight a curious choice. It stood on a small gravel island in the peat-filled hollow adjacent to the East Burn. Although sheltered, it must have been damp and midge-infested. The main advantage was that the large ditch that was dug around the perimeter of the outer enclosure would have quickly filled with ground water forming a wet moat. Writing in 1878 John Meikle exaggerated the area enclosed “*Some hundreds of yards distant from the house, and enclosing the lawn, a fortified and curtained stone wall of substantial thickness encircled the mansion and its outer appointments; this was called the Barbican, and was supplied with one gateway only – no doubt fortified with especial care. Inside the Barbican, and separating the lawn from the castle, there was a deep moat with drawbridge. The surface traces of this moat are now obliterated, but only a little digging is required to reveal its presence, and during some recent building alterations, undertaken only within a very few years, most incontestable evidences of its presence were found in digging for the foundation of new wings then being added to the house. Even inside the moat, and before the Castle proper was touched, the garrison was protected by a square projecting outwork of considerable strength. The Castle proper was a square massive structure, possessing none of the elegant outer adornments which have within the last two or three years been worked into, and now make part of the present palatial whole...*” [Meikle 1879, p.6-7]⁷



Illus 5: Callendar Castle with the deer park to the south. Cleddan was the place of execution.

The causeway into the defended enclosure was guarded by a substantial stone gateway – a square forework. It was strong enough to offer a

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secure place of refuge to Queen Mary in her various travels, even when many of her nobles were seeking to seize her. Such, for example, was the case on her visit in July 1565 not long before her marriage to Darnley. As well as the tower house the enclosure or barmkin would have contained timber buildings such as stables, stores, kitchens, a brewery, barracks, workshops and so on. The road to the town went north-west from the gatehouse (the line of the present road in front of the factor's house) to join the main road from Linlithgow. It descended into the valley of the East Burn by way of the Cleddans Brae, where a cutting was made to ease the gradient (still to be seen north of Belmont Tower). Half way down the brae, on the south side, were two large boulders that traditionally marked the execution place by hanging of criminals. The Baron had the power of pit and gallows and this was a suitable place to display the justice handed out, being particularly prominent from the town of Falkirk. Later maps also show the flat plateau to the north as the market green, with Marion's Well nearby. This then was the public interface between the town and the park.

The esker continued as arable land, but the hillside to the south of the tower house was wooded. 12th century charters to Newbattle Abbey include references to the use of fuel from Callendar Wood for the saltpans at Grangemouth (then also part of Kalentyr c1160 - one saltpan with common easements in pasture, water, and fuel for the saltpan in the wood of Callendar (RRS vol 1, 176, no 109; vol 2, 475, no 546; Laurie 1905⁸, 114; Newbattle no 162, 163)). This was a period when wood rather than coal was used to heat the saltwater – the change to coal normally occurring c1500 and the coal dross used became known as panwood. There is a vague possibility that peat from Callendar Wood was also used as fuel. “three great oak trees” for structural timbers were taken from Callendar Wood in 1534 for Linlithgow Palace, along with “six dozen great birch trees” for scaffolding (Anderson 1967)⁹. There was ample small wood for the annual midsummer bonfires beside Callendar House recorded in 1596, beloved by Elenor Hay and hated by the church of the day (Bailey 1995, 6)¹⁰. By that date the wood had been there for centuries, and provided suitable cover for game and hence hunting. A large earth bank was constructed to preserve the game for the baron in a deer park. This bank is best preserved near to Hendry's Hill and is similar to that at Kinneil Park. Typologically they appear to date to the 13th or 14th centuries. They are both depicted on Pont's map in the 16th century. At Callendar the deer park seems to have been wrapped around the castle, with arms projecting northwards at the west and east ends, creating the bipartite division that still exists today. This is what is shown on Pont. Blaeu's map of the 1650s misinterprets these enclosure banks and displays them as stream courses. As the deer park centres on the castle (the present house) it is probable that the deer park was created at the same time as it. At some date, long before 1654, the park was extended westward by about 135m, taking in the small prominence known as Hendrie's Hill and an unnamed stream that feeds the Goat Burn. Wodsyde Aiker is first mentioned in 1654 and is located at the north-west corner of this new extension (Reid 2009, 157)¹¹. The 14th century park also contained a rabbit warren (Anderson 1967, 277)⁹.

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The discrete identity of the town of Falkirk and firstly the thanage and then the barony of Callendar is unusual, with each retaining its own name. The latter occurred because when the thanedom was split up the town was included in the barony of Abbotskerse and it was only in 1640 that the two were again united. In the meantime a suburb of the town grew up within the lands of Callendar, to which the inhabitants owed their allegiance. At Kinneil the medieval village took the more familiar pattern and lay within the deer park immediately adjacent to the castle and church. We can only speculate on this strange evolution of settlement patterns at Falkirk, but it is possible that the early thanes were pagans who tolerated the establishment of the church – though there is archaeological evidence of a settlement at Falkirk since before the Romans.

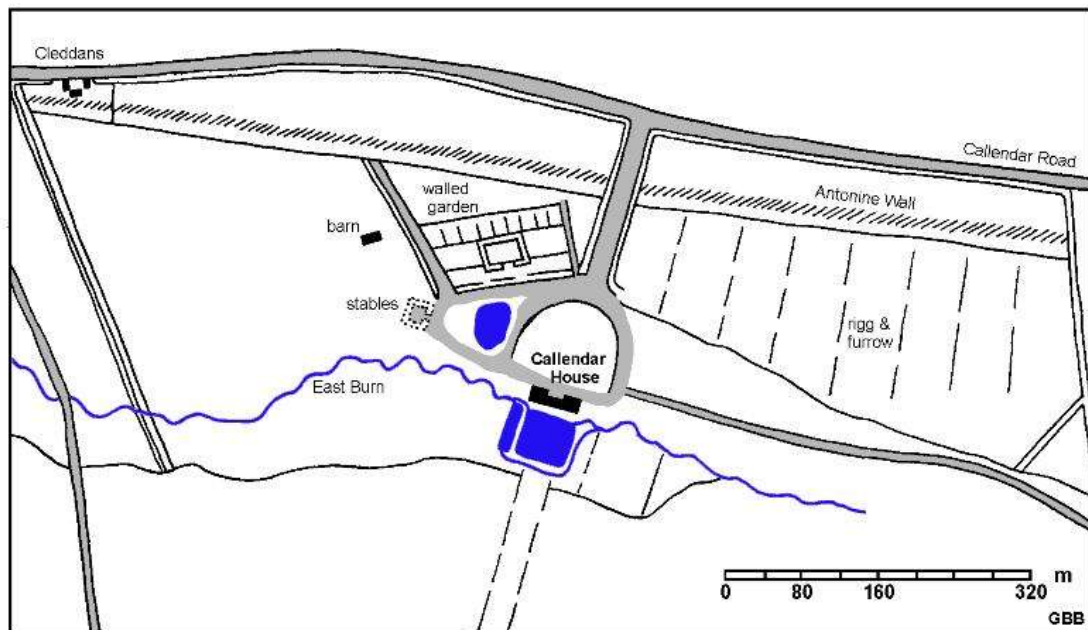
17th CENTURY

Over succeeding generations the house was greatly enlarged and embellished. In 1651 it still stood within its defensive enclosure and was considered to be strong enough for Lieutenant Galbraith to defend against the power of Cromwell's army. Cromwell's troops reported that "the House is very strong, with a Moate about it, and a great Wood by it" (Bailey 1992, appendix 9; see also appendix 12)¹². It was not strong enough – the outer walls were breached by siege cannon and faggots were used to cross the moat. The castle was successfully stormed by General Monck and badly damaged. For several years it housed English soldiers. By the time that the Earl of Callendar returned it was evident that to resurrect the outer defences was pointless. He had, in any case, agreed not to, and they must have been demolished, particularly the gatehouse, before he retook possession. The house was rebuilt in the grand Continental style in the 1670s and the area around it landscaped. In 1681 a broad avenue was cut through the esker to provide a vista from the front door of this new mansion to the Ochils. A doocot on the far side of the main road lay off to one side so that the doos could be glimpsed as they flew in to land. The cutting also provided a view of the House from the road, presumably through a wrought iron gate and screen. This acted as a reminder to passers-by that the Earl was an important person. The avenue became the main entrance to the estate and the older road to the west was closed off at its northern end. The large amount of gravel removed must have been used to fill in the old moat. At the same time the remnants of the Rampart of the Roman frontier in the park were levelled (Livingston 1681, stanza 131)¹, though the earth does not appear to have been thrown into the Ditch. At the Avenue the main Linlithgow to Stirling/Glasgow road was already further north than in previous centuries. At the east end of the park it had to cross the valley of the Gallow Syke, which was best achieved some distance to the north where it flattened out. To the west of the park, however, the best crossing point for the East Burn was still the old bridge and so here it retained its old course.

On the hill to the north-west of the House stood a large barn in which crops and provisions acquired as part of the annual rents of the Earl's tenants were kept. Nearby a stable block was erected around a courtyard. The neighbouring fields continued in cultivation.

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In 1707 Sibbald informs us that: "*The House of Calander is a Noble Seat, with fine Buildings added to the Castle of Calander... The Calander has a large Wood adjacent to it, with Walks cut through it, and Fish Ponds near the House, and Gardens, and large Inclosures to the East and West*" (Sibbald 1707, 53-54)¹³. This rather brief statement can be dissected in detail.



Illus 6: Plan of Callendar Park, c1755.

The fish ponds were substantial structures, with stone dams on their west or downstream sides (Bailey 2012)¹⁴. Roy shows a large pond 60m by 50m occupying most of the ground on the south side of the house, with a narrower one to the west, 13m by 50m, reached by an overflow and a bypass channel. The vast expanse of water was deliberately placed against the south facade of the mansion to reflect the Dutch taste that the Earl had acquired during his time there in exile. The ponds thus displaced the usual formal garden on the sunny side of the house. Sibbald's reference to "Gardens" must therefore refer to the [walled garden](#) located on the south-facing slope to the north-west of the house. Between the two was a more natural shaped pond – the last water-filled remnant of the moat. The old causeway carrying the estate road to the west remained elevated, and the moat to the south was drained into the East Burn. The schematic plan of the walled garden shows a rectangular structure at the centre with an opening facing the house. The many internal divisions suggest that the garden was compartmentalised, which would have allowed formal ornate features to be interspersed with some vegetable production. It was probably here that the two freestanding [sundials](#) of this period were placed as centrepieces. One bore the date 1677 and the initials AN and EC. The other sported the Livingstone of Callendar coat-of-arms under an earl's coronet with the initials E/ IL for James Livingstone who was made the Earl of Linlithgow in 1695 (RCAHMS 1963, 351)¹⁵. The gardens also housed a statue recovered from the

demolished gatehouse. It depicted a woman with a dagger in one hand and her bowels wrapped around her other arm. It was known locally as “Leddy Alicreech” – “the terror of the boys, who, if they chanced to stumble upon her, in their nesting or nutting expeditions, were sure to take to their heels for safety” (Keir 1827, 209)¹⁶.

The “large enclosures to the East and West” would be the water meadows beside the East Burn. The stream had its rise in a spring to the east of Callendar House. Roy does not show a loch here, though a small loch appears on a plan of 1781, probably as a substitute for the fishponds that had been infilled during the intervening years. However, Johnstone mentions [Callendar Loch](#) in 1723. As he places it “near the house” this is probably that already noted to the north-west. Further east, in the area now occupied by the Child Support Agency, was a second “pleasant little loch called Lantonloch” (Johnstone 1723, 325)¹⁷. Perch, pike and eels could be caught (Meikle 1879, 89)⁷. The Earl is known to have planted specimen trees in and around the enclosures and the lime and elm avenue to the east of the house is attributed to him. On the esker overlooking the business park are a number of sweet chestnuts that are old enough to have been contemporary. These trees were popular at the time and other specimens can be seen at Herbertshire Castle and Torwood Castle. A veteran sycamore to the west of the main avenue is also a candidate for this period. Indeed, it is notable that the oldest trees occur in the parkland rather than the wood.

The large wood was a useful source of timber, which was then a valuable and scarce commodity. Sibbald¹³ noted “Walks cut through it”, as if these were a relatively recent insertion at the time that he was writing. This seems like a reasonable suggestion. Roy’s map of 1755 shows a broad avenue cutting through the wood on the same alignment as that cut through the Antonine Wall in 1681, centred on the house. Smaller avenues would also have radiated away from the mansion (they are not shown on Roy, probably because by then the grounds were much neglected). Some maiden oaks occur on the slopes just below the wood and may represent self-seeded examples. Within the wood few oaks of any age survive, though some of the stunted oaks at the west end may be older than first appearance indicates. The soil here is poor and Quelch¹⁸ noted that tree ring evidence indicates episodic setbacks in the growth patterns, probably as a result of heavy utilisation of the timber. This has produced oak scrogg pollards. Several 19th century authors refer to coppice, chiefly oak, (for example the New Statistical Account¹⁹ and Rogers 1853²⁰), which allowed the branches to be harvested frequently. This would have been normal practice in this period.

Even before Sibbald’s¹³ time the west end of the wood at Callendar had already been encroached upon by coal mining. One of the consequences of the Cromwellian occupation of the house in 1651 had been the neglect of the maintenance of the pits there, which soon flooded (Bailey 1992)²¹, causing a significant loss of revenue. At this time the indwellers of Falkirk were astricted to the Earl’s mines – meaning that, in the first instance, they had to obtain their supplies of coal from him (Reid 2000, 13)²². In due course the mines were pumped out. In 1723 Johnstone of Kirkland noted that “*the water that runs from the level of the coalpits in*

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the wood of Callendar, falls into it [the East Burn]" (Johnstone 1723, 324)¹⁷. They were still being productively worked in the 1740s when the Earl of Kilmarnock was taking on extra colliers (Bailey 2000, 41)²³.

The vista through the Antonine Wall was broad so that it could be lined to either side by trees (after 200 or so years these began to die off and were replaced wholesale by trees on the top edge of the cutting – a process that is about to be reversed once saplings within the cutting have become sufficiently established). The high road was also provided with flanking trees, partly to screen the park. A long shelter belt of fine trees ran south eastward from the Cleddans along the western side of the Barnyard Park to the East Burn. A few of its beech trees are still there and are well in excess of 200 years old. The belt provided an internal park division separating the private ground to the east from the more public fields and access roads to the coal pits to the west. Specimen trees, notably beech, were also planted in the fields to either side of the main avenue to break up the monotony of the parkland (Meikle 1879, 43). Presumably the parkland was now in grass. By 1797 these scattered trees were in their prime and are distinguished from those in the wood by the parish minister: "*The numerous fine trees which are in Callendar park and its neighbourhood, together with the wood belonging to the same place, add much to the pleasantness of the town of Falkirk*" (Wilson 1797)²⁴. The largest trees in the whole park are beech on the esker at the east end of the loch. The largest has a girth of 6.19m, and another a girth of 5.20m, making them date to around 1680-1730. Some large individual oak and ash are found in the Meadows.

In 1681 there was a prolonged drought and the East Burn, along with the West Burn of Falkirk, dried up, causing much suffering to the inhabitants of Falkirk. Alexander Livingston, the town's patron, then arranged for wooden pipes to be laid from a copious spring near the south-west corner of Callendar Wood to an underground cistern in the town's market place where it could be pumped to the surface at the Cross Well (Bailey 2014)²⁵. To dispense with the personal obligation of maintaining the water supply he established a committee of townsmen to look after it, giving them power to raise a tax or stent within the burgh; from which they took the name of stentmasters. Authority was also given to them to search for further supplies of water within the wood (Meikle 1879, 71)⁷.

Other people were still forbidden to enter the wood and the Baron Court was used to fine intruders:

16 May 1682 "*Complaint, William Duncan and Ninian Wyse factors for the earl of Callendar against John Davie in Woodend, Thomas Bryssone there, Alexander Davie there, John Davie in Langtoun and James Davie his sone, David Wyse in Blackhill, William Couie in Layontom and John Richardsone there for breaking the wood dykes of Callendar and suffering horse and bestiall to pasture there. The pursuer refers the complaint to the defenders oaths John Davie being sworn deponed negative, and assoylzied. William Cowie deponed negative; since he enacted himself to keep his horse and bestial out of the said wood and is assoylzied. John Richardsone refused to depone and held contest. David Wyse acknowledges he did put in ane mear in the said wood upon necessitie. Bailies fine each in blank*

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pounds; ordained to enact themselves under pain of according to former acts of (Baron Court).

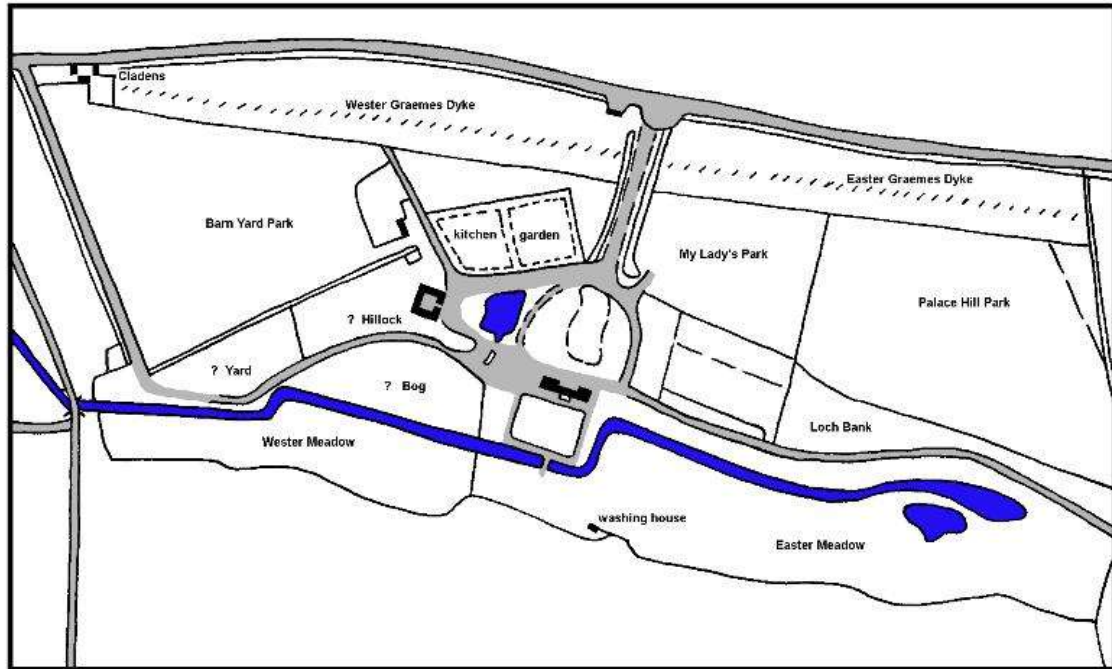
18th CENTURY

In 1715 the Livingstons of Callendar were attainted for their role in the Battle of Sherrifmuir and their estates were forfeited. Five years later Callendar was purchased by the York Buildings Company and was then leased to Anne Livingston, the daughter of the departed Earl. As a tenant she had little incentive to carry out any improvements. The estate fell into decline – both in terms of the maintenance of the physical landscape and buildings, and also in terms of its ability to maintain law and order in the locality. Pilfering in the wood became prolific and the park was used as a shortcut. The Road Trustees had the right to extract channel or gravel from adjacent land and did so with little constraint, undermining hedges in Piper's Park and leaving a pot-marked landscape (Forbes Papers²⁶ 172/33 – these pits are now used as sunken car parks). The situation was exacerbated by the financial collapse of the York Buildings Company in the 1740s and its eventual drift into liquidation. The assets of the company were only slowly realised in order to pay the creditors and it was 1781 before agreement was reached for the sale of Callendar. In the meantime Anne and her husband, the Earl of Kilmarnock, and after 1747 their son, the Earl of Errol, exploited their temporary position as acting baron baillies to raise money in order to purchase the estate back. The Earl of Kilmarnock tried to maximise coal production (Bailey 2000, 41)²³. It was largely his financial problems that drove him into the arms of Bonnie Prince Charlie, against the advice of his wife and his own family. Callendar Park saw the comings and goings of both Jacobite and Hanoverian armies. The dragoons kept horses at the stables there and in January 1746 the doocot became the gathering point of the Jacobite army. Kilmarnock's knowledge of the local area was important in the immediate aftermath of the Battle of Falkirk, but even he could not stop the Argyll Militia from using the park wall at Claddens Brae to cover the retreat of the Hanoverian army. He was executed on Tower Hill later that year. Subsequently, the Earl of Errol spent much time in the house and it was probably he that had the ponds infilled and the site used as a bowling green. Unnecessary expenditure was cut back even further and assets were quietly sold off. A few years later it was noted that "Calr wood is fit for cutting every thirty years but at present there is only a small part at the west end fit to be cut, because Lord E's people having the liberty of cutting, towards the end of their lease sold about £600 worth" (Forbes Papers 172/16, 27 March 1784). The coal in the wood, however, was practically exhausted. Lord Errol's people included the Leishman family who occupied the dwelling at the Cleddans and who appear to have operated as estate factors.

The presence of Callendar Wood was one of the determining factors in the location of the Carron Iron Works at a time when charcoal was still extensively used as fuel in that industry. Wood was also necessary for that company's construction projects. For example, when it was straightening the River Carron in 1764 the wooden piles to retain the new cut were obtained from Callendar Wood at a cost of £3.16.6 (GD

Callendar Park - FLHS

58/8/10)³⁶. Wands from Callendar Wood are mentioned in John Christies correspondence in the Hamilton archives in 1777, and in 1779 cash was paid by Kerse estate for timber and stakes from the wood (GD 173/1/9)³⁶. Clearly it was a busy place.



Illus 7: Plan of Callendar Park c1781.

One of the people that came to inspect the park before the sale was George Forbes who wrote to his brother William in September 1782 that “*The inclosures round the house are very extensive: in them are a multitude of large and venerable trees: I speak here of what we call in this country the policy, and the policy of Callendar is in my opinion excellent*” (Forbes Papers 116/38)²⁶. The following year William bought the estate for £83,000.

The policy, however, has suffered from its lack of attention. Not only had there been little maintenance, but the absence of a landlord had led to gradual incursions by the locals who used it as a right of way. The surrounding boundary walls and fences were in very poor condition and full of “slaps” or gaps where access could easily be gained.

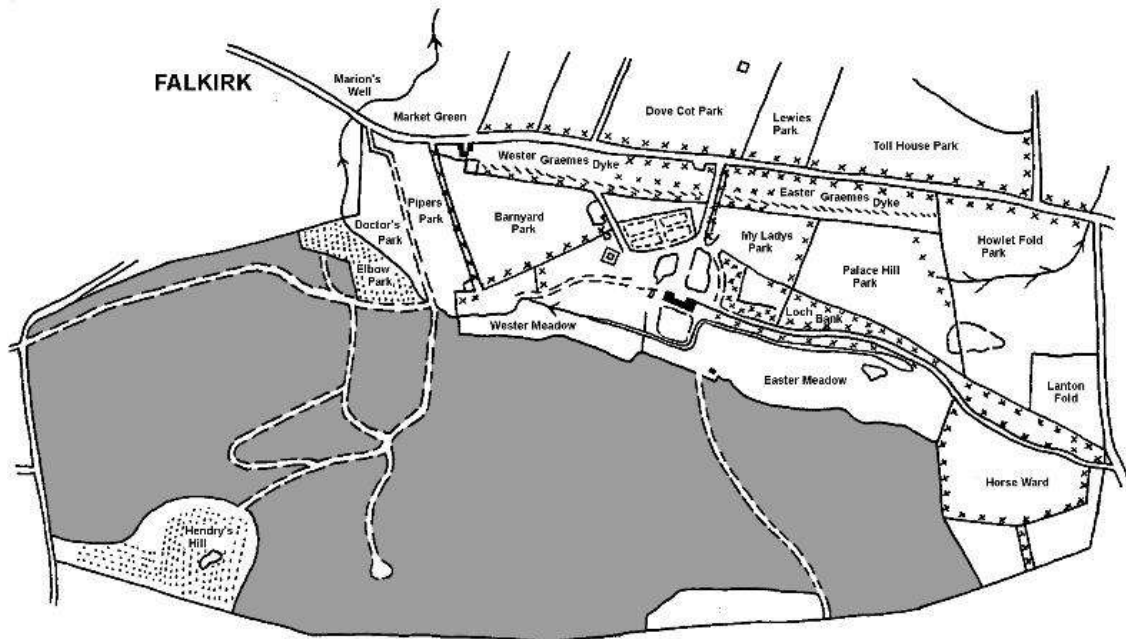
James Forbes was the first of the brothers on the ground and in his first weeks encountered many people using the wood as a source of raw material. Initially he demanded that they leave his family’s newly acquired property, but “*they are not to be easily frightened having been for so long a time winked at. It will not be properly cared for till it has a keeper (who knows all the people in the country) working in it from morning till night. I understand the keeper of such a wood would put a proprietor to little or no expence, because he is often employed in repairing fences, in selling the cuttings and in making wicker work, for coal works and for sale... I*

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understand Lord Kilmarnock used to beat severely with his own hands the offenders” (172/15)²⁶. Colliers were accustomed to making their baskets in the wood from the wands that they cut. Others were stealing “strong trees fit for ploughs and quantities of middling stuff for walking staves, for the Edin: market”. Murdoch McPherson was also cutting rods or sticks, but being an old man on the parish charity was let off with a caution. John Black, on the other hand was a man of substance. He was an oversman at Shieldhill Colliery who ran a public house there. He was discovered in the wood cutting rods of about 3ins diameter accompanied by a young helper. It was therefore decided to prosecute him and make an example (Forbes Papers 172/16; 172/17, 172/29, etc)²⁶. Temporary repairs were made to the boundary fences, which seem to have consisted of old low stone dykes and crude wooden fences.

A more widespread abuse of the wood occurred every 4th June – the King’s birthday. The people of the town entered the wood in large numbers, removing leafy boughs to attach to the front of the buildings lining the High Street. Thus adorned there was a day of great celebrations (Forbes Papers 172/32)²⁶. *“it gives me the greatest pain to see your property here abused in the manner it is - the abuses in the wood of which I have before spoke often have not only increased to a scandalous pitch (upon the fourth of June last a stranger would have supposed that it had walked down to the Town of ffalkirk & neighbouring villages. Every door & window was ornamented with branches of trees. Trees stood in the middle of the streets by bonfires in honour of the day, and every carters horse was trim’d with foliage from Callander Wood)” (177/29)²⁶. The wood was a valuable asset and had to be protected. It supplied not only timber for building, but small wood for baskets, wheel spokes, fencing, fuel, and so on. The bark too had a commercial market. The proximity of the Trysts meant that tanning could be carried on profitably in the town. So valuable was the wood on the estate at this time that it was said that William Forbes often joked that it alone would have bought the whole (Paton 1838, 109)²⁷.*

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Illus 8: Transcribed version of the 1781 plan of Callendar Park.

The fences on the lower ground were in the same condition. “I am keeping many people from making, as they have done for some time, thorough fares of the Lochbank and pleasure grounds They were grown too common The Lochbank is the admired grass walk with large trees on each side, of about 3/4 of a mile long leading from Cal: house to Sir A Livingstone's” (Forbes Papers 172/17, 3 April 1784)²⁶. The low parks were already leased to tradesmen in the town. “The fences of several of the parks are broke in some places. When there used to be working people about the house they were always mending them. One Brade, a butcher, who has barnyard park under Peter Waugh, is to put beasts into it in the beginning of the week. He has been asking for some repairs. 2 or 3 days of the man who is at low wages, a sort of under hand at the wood, will put it to rights.” (Forbes Papers 172/21, 24 April 1784)²⁶. These leases brought in useful cash, but also unwelcome visitors; “The people who hold the other grounds near the house bring such numbers, droves I may call them, of troublesome children to the milking of their cows that we cannot think of setting the pleasure grounds upon such terms, as the children do a great deal of hurt to the trees & shrubs in the parks already let. The children and indeed grown people would be constantly in the close, about the windows and among the inclosed shrubs breaking and with insolence stealing & destroying.” (172/32, 12 July 1784)²⁶. Writing some time later Meikle noted that “The home park had become a kind of “muir” or “common” to the town, and this was a privilege of which, during the better part of half a century, the bairns freely availed themselves.” (Meikle 1879, 70)⁷.

Many of the parks near to the house were under pasture, but the lack of proper leases meant that it had grown rank and produced prolific hay crops. “There is upon the pleasure grounds an uncommon crop of grass, almost ready for being made into

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hay. It's thought altogether improper to set them, being the only place at present you can call your own. They surround the house and are close up to it bound in by a sunk fence before the house & broad & deep stanks behind the house." (172/32)²⁶. The stanks were in fact the overgrown banks of the meandering East Burn; the sunk fence or ha-ha must have bordered the outer side of the horseshoe drive in front of the house. It was intended to keep the oxen away from the house. The ha-ha was removed in 1785 (236/1, 5 Jan 1786)²⁶ and further improvements followed. Barnyard Park was still occasionally ploughed by oxen (236/4 & 8), for barley crops (282/9; 17 Sep 1787)²⁶. At this time the fields or parks to the north of the main road were considered as integral to Callendar Park (they are depicted as such on Pont's map) and are often referred to as the "front parks" to distinguish them from those "behind the wood" (ie Hallglen, eg 282/9; 17 Sep 1787)²⁶. Meikle refers to the front parks as the outfield. They were ploughed by horses.

Open areas within Callendar Wood were leased as pasture, though there was a persistent problem with animals wandering into the neighbouring crops. Hendry's Hill was the largest of these fields and after the building of the estate wall was used for the estate's own cattle in the summer months – the cattle being moved to the lower parks in the winter (479/7, 30 Nov 1792)²⁶.

William Forbes employed a landscape architect from Southwark in London called William Driver, (whose brother Samuel had been well known in this line of work), to ensure that the parkland was properly designed. He drew up plans that included removing the old formal garden; filling in the large valley between the house and the stables, and the ha-ha; enlarging the source of the East Burn to create a loch and canalising the course of the stream, retaining the water at a high level by means of a weir called the Cascade; laying out new avenues, and constructing a new large walled garden to the north-east of the house.

"About 100 workmen, gardeners and labourers, are employed within the park or policy, improving and ornamenting the grounds, such as draining some marshy land, making fine walks, avenues, lawns, greens, planting the finest trees and shrubs that can be got, and twenty et ceteras

When the park is completed, which consists of upwards of 500 acres, it will be as fine, I may say finer than any of these fine places we went to see when living at Byfleet. The grounds are naturally beautiful with a number of hills and valleys, and covered with trees of every sort from the largest size down to the smallest that by cutting out trees with taste where they are placed and planting in other places where they are wanting" (246/1; 10 Feb 1786)²⁶.

The four mile long park wall was almost completely rebuilt using stone quarried in the wood. In the first season the north wall against the public road from Falkirk to Linlithgow was completed. In 1786 the masons were moved to the wall facing Laurieston (282/8; 7 Sep 1787: 282/9; 17 Sep 1787)²⁶, and the year later to the south wall. The wall on the west bordering the Glen Brae was in better order, being newer than elsewhere. It was raised in height and increased in depth. The latter occurred because the gradient of the road was improved by removing earth,

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requiring the underpinning of the wall – this can be seen by the occurrence of large rounded boulders, which once formed the foundations, about a quarter of the way up the outer face of the wall. The park wall was 14ft tall and was capped with good quality copes (286/13, 18 Oct 1787)²⁶.

There was an existing lodge with its own forecourt just to the west of the Avenue. It was quite plain and run down: *“The porters lodge is about 3 or 4 yards off the road side and before it, in a line with the road are railings which make a sort of close. The railings are of the coarsest kind viz rough sticks from the wood, one end drove into the ground and the other end fixed with a nail at the top to a cross long stick or rod.”* (172/32; 12 July 1784)²⁶. It and the dwelling at the Cleddans were soon occupied by men who worked on the park during the day. Together with their families they doubled as watchmen.



Illus 9: The Glenbrae (Shieldhill) Lodge looking north.

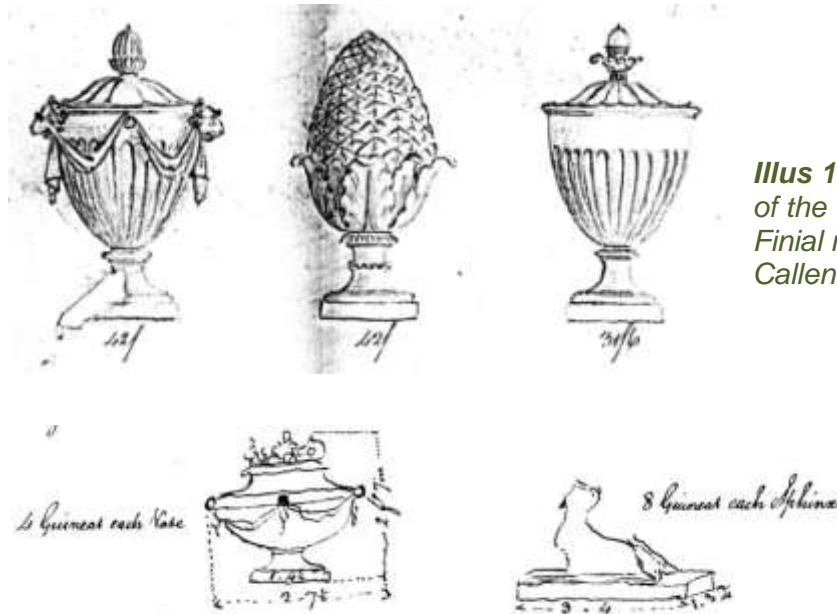
New [entrance lodges](#) were designed by Edward Bardwell Brazier of London. There were three – the Wester or Shieldhill Gate on the Glen Brae, the Easter or Laurieston Gate at the north-east of the park, and the principal gate to the north-west of the house on the main road. A smaller gate in the east wall, known as the Lanton, Lochbank or Howlet Fauld Gate only opened onto a minor road and consequently had no lodge. A small door was also requested in the wall near the north-west corner so that the Stentmasters could gain access to their fountain or cistern which supplied water to the town. As they required a key for the door they offered to pay for the door and its lock (289/11; 25 May 1787)²⁶. Of these lodges only that on the Glen Brae remains. It is depicted in the 1818 estate plan aligned W/E with its gable against the road. This gable has a chamfered bay which was evidently designed to project a little beyond the park wall, but that wall was built before the plans arrived in late 1788. The delay was due to the architect exhibiting the drawings at the Royal Academy in London (265/15)²⁶ instead of sending them promptly to Falkirk. The bay contains a blank window for architectural effect. The facing stone was bought from the quarry at Brightons, it being of a better quality than could be obtained in the wood and was found to be cheaper (282/7; 4 Sep 1787; 282/12; 9 Oct 1787)²⁶. To its south a court was formed by setting the north gate pier against the lodge beyond the window bay and providing a re-entrant wall from the south pier to the park wall (what we might now call a visibility splay). A few years later the Slamannan road was re-aligned so that the lodge was at the bottom of its descent down the hill. Travellers on that route into Falkirk got a distant view of the building, which gradually grew in size as they approached. Formerly the road had run along Station Road. The main Falkirk gate was more elaborate. It stood at the bottom of the upcast mound of the Antonine Wall on the site of the small steading called Cleddans. Brazier's design showed a symmetrical front onto the main road with a small lodge at either side, a short length of railing with two uprights, and a central gateway flanked by substantial square piers. The park wall was supposed to join the lodges at the centre of their outer gables, but as with the Shieldhill Lodge the wall had already been built against the road. The Architect bemoaned the alteration "*If the effect of the Lodges was wished to be destroy'd a more effectual Method cou'd not be adopted.*" (320/31; 22 July 1788; 340/3; 14 July 1788)²⁶. A compromise was reached and the park wall was stepped back for a distance of 30ft on either side. The chimney stacks of the lodges here were capped with vases of Coade reformed stone and sphinxes were prominently positioned. A Doric cornice, made of the same material, had Classic triglyphs. Pine ornaments surmounted the gate piers (340/25, 24 Nov 1788; 340/27, 8 Dec 1788)²⁶. The elaborate iron principal gate was

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executed by Carron Company at 10d per pound weight (315/40, 22 Nov 1788; John Bell of Camelon being unable to execute it – 320/39, 10 Nov 1788)²⁶.

Wall Lodge | - o - - o - □ - - - - - □ - o - - o - - Lodge Wall

Carron Company also sent their principal carver, William Haworth, to inspect the vases of stone at Callendar House (315/22, 20 Aug 1788). The old Avenue or vista was closed off with a semi-circular dwarf wall topped with a stone coping and iron rails (282/12, 9 Oct 1787)²⁶.



Illus 10: Contemporary Sketches of the Vases, Sphinx and pine Finial made in Coade stone for Callendar Park.

Rather oddly the construction of the lodges and the park wall did not stop unwarranted incursions on the north front. *“Many complaints having been made by the former and present Barkeeper at Gallowsyke, of evasions of the Toll duties, by Travellers, with horses and Carriages going by Mr Forbes’s gates and Park, and shunning the Bar, while they neither Stopt, nor had any business at Callendar house, And several Trustees conceiving that these Evasions and this loss to the funds, might be prevented, by moving the Bar a little to the eastward of Callendar East Gate, The meeting appoint this subject to be taken into consideration at the next meeting, and to be notified accordingly; - and in the meantime direct and authorise the Barkeeper at Gallowsyke, to demand and levy a Toll from Travellers passing thro’ said Park (not having business at Callendar house), and if requisite, to prosecute all evaders, for the penalties of the Statute, Requesting the aid of Mr Forbes in the business.”* (639/23, 10 Sep 1798)²⁶.

The grand old trees that bordered the road also caused the Turnpike Trustees problems. They overshadowed the road providing it with a cool leafy canopy in the summer, but also meaning that the road never really dried out. There were constant demands for pruning to be carried out (eg. 661/12, 1 Aug 1799)²⁶.

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Inside the park the new landscape design demanded the construction of two new avenues. The most important was that from the Falkirk lodges to the House and was known as the Wester Avenue. Having past between the lodges it mounted the crest of the bank upon which the Roman Wall was built and then turned sharply east to follow that ancient frontier. From here there were magnificent views northward across the Carse and south to the fine parkland and the venerable old trees. Fleeting and enticing glimpses of the house could be caught between these trees. Just before reaching the old Avenue the carriage road turned to the south and descended the hills to the horseshoe track surrounding the lawn. *“Gordon has finished cutting the avenue, and also made the road up the bank to the new wester road”* (282/9, 17 Sep 1787; 236/1; 5 Jan 1786)²⁶.

The Lanton Loch must have been drained to provide the new drive to the Laurieston Lodge. This required far more cutting and filling than the Wester Avenue. *“Mcgregor with his men on the Roman wall are come very near that place where we ride thro’ to the loch in the Howletfauld, I mean near to the Cooks tree I do not think he has come on slowly considering the stones and tree roots he has had to encounter”* (282/9, 17 Sep 1787)²⁶. The esker was breached and the avenue placed in the valley of the Gallow Syke and planted with lime trees. Both of these drives were completed by the end of 1788 (340/27, 8 Dec 1788)²⁶.

The swampy area at the source of the East Burn was turned into a picturesque [loch](#). *“Chas Clark’s men are still working in the lock in the meadow – you may remember I said it would be a tedious operation but it is producing excellent manure, it is allowed to be better than any we have yet dug anywhere. After taking off the surface, we come into a rich black mud, which is almost inexhaustible; they are making it up in composts with lime which Burnside burns. I think it may save us making any other compost this year”* (282/9, 17 Sep 1787)²⁶. *“The mud of the loch is not mixed with lime immediately when it comes out, for then it is quite thin, it is wheeled out and lyes till it is dry.”* (282/10, 27 Sep 1787)²⁶.

From the new loch the East Burn was widened and the banks scarped (and probably stepped) so that it could be flooded to create an ornamental feature. This was achieved by constructing a weir or [cascade](#) at the point where the estate road crossed it going to the Shieldhill Lodge. A substantial bridge was built (this is sometimes associated with Robert Adam), which became known as the [Cascade Bridge](#). It is this bridge that is referred to in 1787 *“And the coping of the new bridge, which is a job for Ker. A few days after you went from here the bridge was done all but the coping; we left it for two reasons, first, till stones should be got in the course of the operations, and secondly, we preferred building while the weather was fit, and left hewing till the tail of the season”* (282/10, 27 Sep 1787)²⁶. The balustrades of the parapet were of cast iron (RCAHMS 1963, 351 & PI 227C)¹⁵, with five panelled piers on each side. The balustrade must have been made at Carron in 1788 (315/36, Nov 1788)²⁶. From the bridge the waterfall at the end of the ornamental canal would have delighted the passer by.



Illus 11: The Cascade Bridge looking SE (copyright RCAHMS).

A large stone-capped drain was installed and the old loch to the north-west of the house was drained into the canal. Together with the infilling of the adjacent valley this enabled a grand lawn to be placed in front of the house, with a stirrup or horseshoe shaped drive. This task was so extensive that carts were obtained on hire. *“He is now levelling down the road at the foot of the old Garden. We must have recourse to the Comb for earth to finish the hole before the Stables, it is far from being full”* (282/9; 17 Sep 1787)²⁶. Part of the valley was evidently the old moat, traces of this deep fosse remaining until c 1787 (Keir 1827, 209)¹⁶.

In levelling the ground for the lawn the footings of the demolished barbican gatehouse had to be grubbed out and the remains of some of the defeated garrison were discovered (Meikle 1879, 37⁷; Wilson 1797²⁴; Keir 1827, 209¹⁶; Fleming 1902, 301²⁸). It is possible that this explains the presence of a small mound between the house and the stables. The Forbes brothers had received a classical education and the result was an emulation of the mound at Marathon. The mound now supports a



fine variegated beach tree. It, like the gatehouse before it, was on line with the old road to Falkirk – now a tree-lined avenue. Fleming²⁸ notes that opposite the gateway was a huge ash tree, 14 feet in diameter, named the “Dule” tree (Scots for grief) or the “Gallows” tree – presumably after the slaughter in 1651. However, the mound’s first appearance on Ordnance Survey maps is the fourth edition.

Illus 12: The Earth Burial Mound?

The grass parks were kept in trim by introducing sheep. They had the added advantage of providing meat, though not always to those who had a right to it. In

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1793 a reward for information was advertised because: “Several sheep have of late been stollen at different times from Callander park by persons breaking into the park Slaughtering and carrying of the carcasses in the night time” (501/37; 3 Nov 1793)²⁶. Grazing rights were still let, under the condition that the animals were removed at the beginning of November each year (405/8, 26 Oct 1790)²⁶. Cattle remained a feature: “There are three milk cows for the use of the house. Seventy highland oxen were bought to feed on the ground and to be killed for our own use. Sixteen of the strongest of them worked in the plough.” (246/1, 10 Feb 1786)²⁶.

The lawn was designed to impress visitors to the house, which fronted onto it. The [stables](#) too presented the main facade in its direction. On the opposite side the pedimented ice-house faces west into this arena. It was constructed on the edge of an earlier gravel pit in about 1790 (Bailey 1992a, 40-41)²¹.

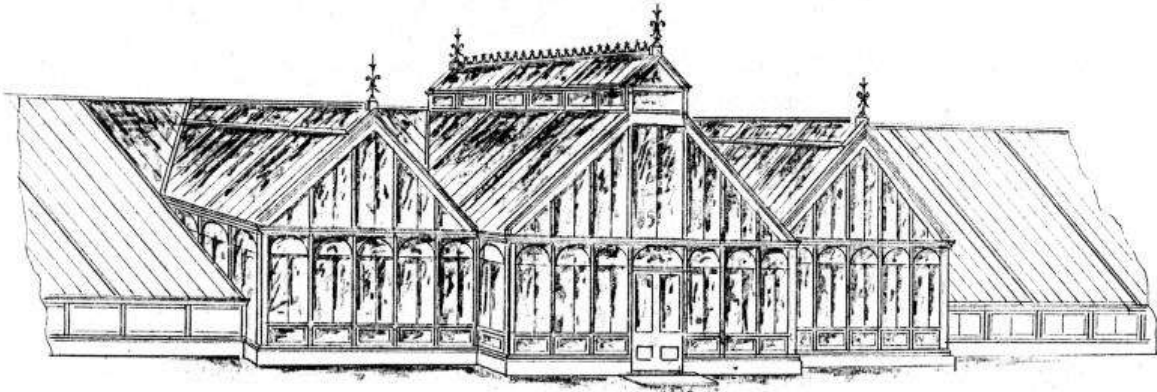
Some distance behind the ice-house was the all important kitchen garden. “A large kitchen garden is making which contains about 7 Scotch acres, it is to be surrounded with a brick wall 14 feet high and to have hothouses, hot walls and green houses all in the first stile (246/1, 10 Feb 1786)²⁶. Like the other garden structures it was designed by Driver (246/2). The foundation was laid using stone rooted out of the front parks as part of their improvement (282/10, 27 Sep 1787)²⁶. The walls took a huge quantity of bricks, whose manufacture had to be commissioned for the purpose. The massive gate piers and two ornate seats were of stone (282/12, 9 Oct 1787)²⁶ embellished by Coade vases (340/25, 24 Nov 1788; 340/27, 8 Dec 1788)²⁶. The seats were placed in pedimented alcoves framed by Doric pilasters. The sundials do not seem to have been transferred to the new garden but were placed on the south side of the house.

An experienced gardener was required to run these new facilities. “I have engaged your Gardener to Mr Forbes of Callander for Twenty five pounds per Ann. Bed, Board & Washing in the family – Come by the first ship for Leith or Carron and two Guineas for your expences will be allowed -

As the old Gardener is dead you must come as soon as possible, at farthest in six weeks from this date, otherwise it will be no bargain; as the new Garden wants to be soon cropped” (312/7, 4 Feb 1788)²⁶. That same year a new range of hothouses of 190 feet was begun. Construction of the hothouses was overseen by Wilson, Lady Glasgow’s gardener (282/13, 18 Oct 1787)²⁶. In September a variety of fruiting pines were sent in pots by Driver on board the Carron Company ship ‘Paisley’.

“20 black Antiqua fruiting Pines	at 10/6	10”10” -
46 fruiting Pines of various sorts	8/	18 ” 8” -
40 do do do	7/	14” -” -
150 strong succession Pine of sorts	4/	30” -” -
200 lesser do do	2/6	25” -” -”

(340/13, 8 Sep 1788)²⁶.



Illus 13: the Hothouses at Callendar Park. 1885.

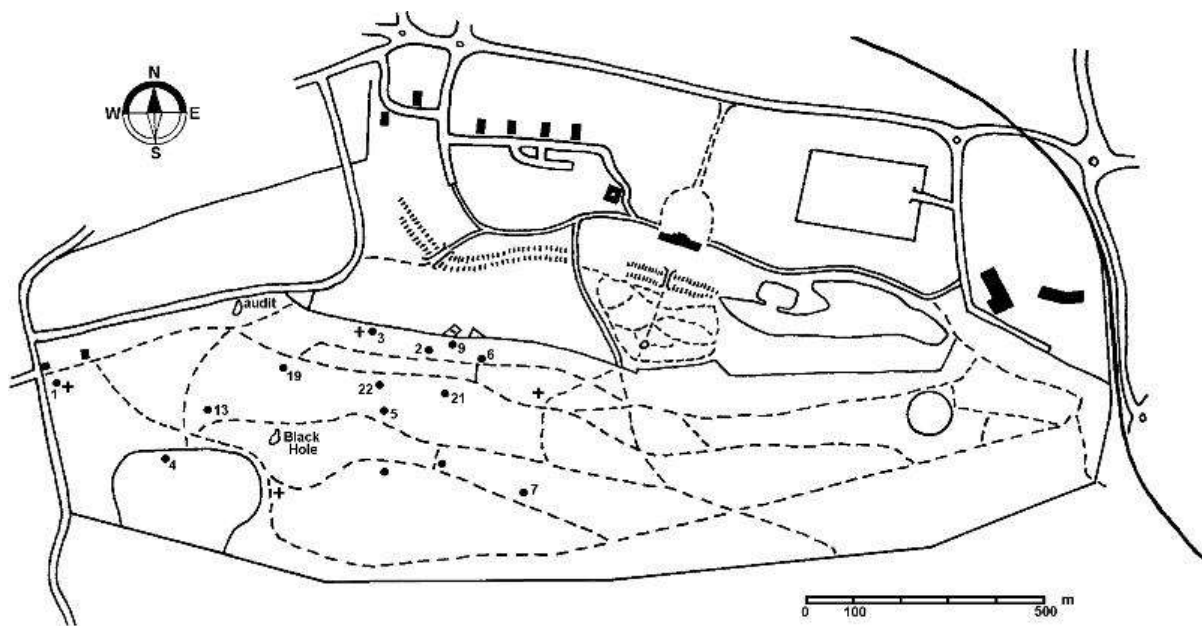
By 1811 some of the outer walls of the garden were leaning. Architects and engineers (including John Rennie) came up with different solutions – one suggested buttresses built around oak piles, the other wedging the wall back into an upright position (977/4; 30 Sep 1811)²⁶.

The [stable block](#) was upgraded using plans provided by Brazier (254/13, 18 Sep 1786)²⁶. The block was gutted and new floors put in and the roof replaced. The back and side walls were harled and whitewashed. It is probable that the fine sandstone facade facing the house was also whitened as it now looked “*black and old beside the other*” (282/9; 7 Sep 1787)²⁶.

Earth from behind the stables was used to fill the valley to the east, and this created a useful yard for storage and composting (429/5, 5 Dec 1791)²⁶. Surplus coal was also dumped there, prior to being used to burn limestone (479/6, 24 Nov 1792)²⁶.

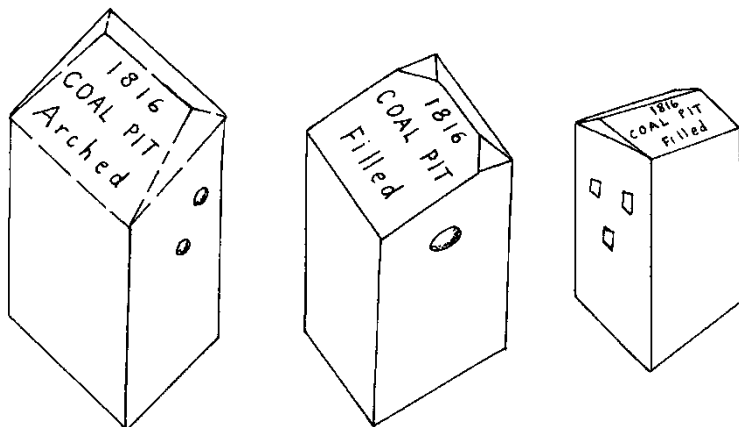
In the 1770s the coal interests of Callendar had been looked after by William Cadell. The old workings were exhausted and he opened up new pits at Pirleyhill to the south. The pits in the wood were closed down and in 1816 the first batch of pits were arched over. This was not the most satisfactory way of dealing with old workings and some were filled instead. A few years later the remaining pit shafts were all filled in.

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Illus 14: Map showing the distribution of pit markers (dot) and depressions (+).

1. Coal Pit Arched 1810; 2. Coal Pit Filled 1822; 3. Coal Pit Arched 1816; 4. Coal Pit – (worn); 5. Coal Pit Filled 1822; 6. Coal Pit Filled 1816; 7. Coal Pit Filled 1822; 9. Coal Pit Filled 1816; 13. Coal Pit Filled 1816; 19. Coal Pit Filled 1822; 21. Coal Pit Filled 1822 22. Coal Pit Filled 1822; Pit markers without a number are shown on the 4th Ed OS map, but could not be located during the survey. The old audit is marked on 4th Ed OS map.



Illus 15: Pit Markers in Callendar Wood.

On the night of 23rd August 1797 a great band of disgruntled colliers and some of the youth of Falkirk burst into the tranquillity of the park and paraded round Callendar House beating a drum and shouting. They were protesting against the new Militia Act and so alarmed William Forbes and his brothers that they fled from the house by a back door into the wood. Looking round from among the trees they beheld the flickering blaze of Carron Works and believed that the mob had set the house on fire. Once safe in Edinburgh they arranged for the Lancashire Dragoons to be dispatched to Falkirk, whence the truth was discovered (Bailey & Young 2013)²⁹. Naturally William Forbes was greatly relieved and always felt an attachment to the Volunteer forces that were able to maintain law and order. For almost a decade from 1806 the

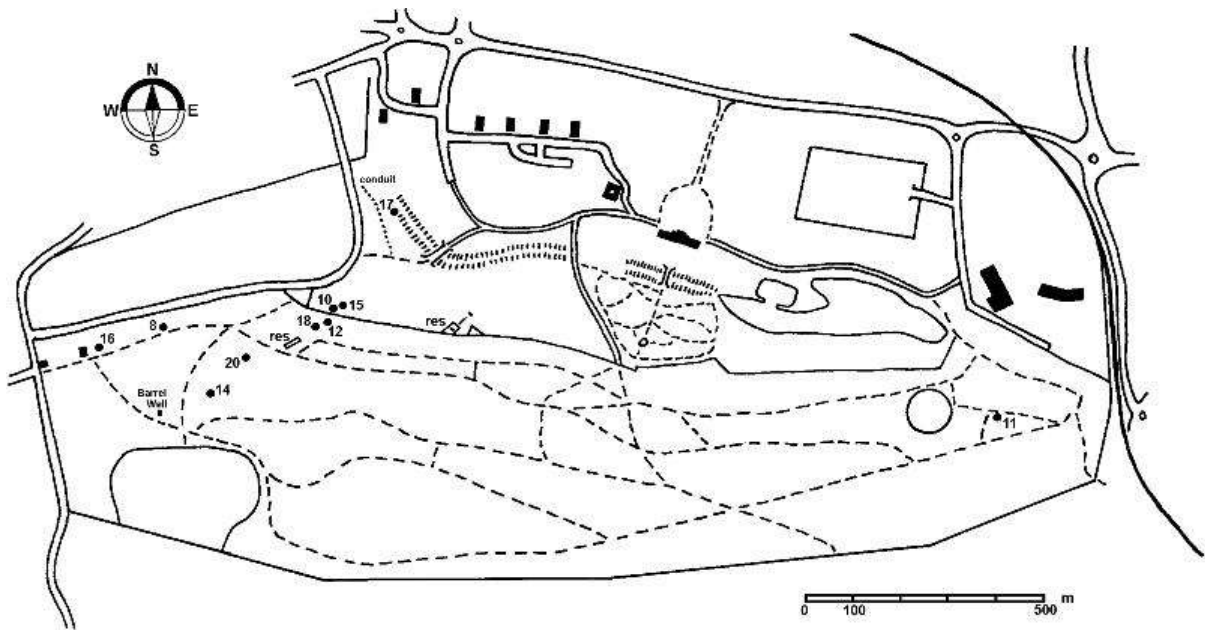
Callendar Park - FLHS

Linlithgow and Stirlingshire Volunteers were given permission to hold their annual parades in the grounds of Callendar House (Forbes Papers 847/1) ²⁶.

Perhaps spurred by the Stentmasters request for a gate in the park wall, William Forbes negotiated to buy the water rights from the town. The original water supply, it would seem, came from a copious spring to the north of Hendry's Hill. From there it was presumably led by an open ditch to the foot of the wood, from whence it would have been conveyed to the Cross Well in hollowed out tree trunks joined by iron collars by way of the Cow Wynd. Over the following century the water supply was augmented by water that collected in abandoned coal workings just above the Slamannan road to the west of Callendar Park. As the coal extraction proceeded up the hill to the south, the catchment area for the water increased and this new source became more important than its predecessor. From the flooded mine workings the water now flowed along the Muir Burn to the town with a series of reservoirs or "fountains" that acted as settling tanks on the route. Some of these tanks lay in the north-west corner of Callendar Wood, utilising earlier installations, and required periodic maintenance. The Stentmasters therefore no longer needed the original supply and by selling the rights were able to use the money to establish a more direct route for the more westerly source. Some of the traditionalists in the town were incensed by the brake with the past and the Earl's gift. In 1827 Robert Keir wrote scathingly: "The right to the well-fountains which were situated in Callendar wood, was lately sold by the stent-masters to the Callendar family, for a paltry sum, which, it is said, scarcely covered the expense of conveyancing" (Keir 1827, 206) ¹⁶.

In 1791 William Forbes erected a vaulted chamber over the old spring, which consequently became known as the [Barrel Well](#). The date is prominently carved on the lintel. From here an underground pipe led to a series of reservoirs at the foot of the woods and was then conveyed to the house. A large culvert also led off from the lower reservoir to the town, presumably to augment the supply there. For part of its course it runs almost parallel to the East Burn, but at a higher level, and still carries water to this day. The lower reservoir was certainly in place before 1825, for correspondence in May that year states: "To lead the pipes by the stables and over the cascade bridge is about 80 yards longer than over the bridge south of the house, but I am inclined to think that at some time after the stables may possibly consume more water than they have done for some time past" (Forbes Papers 1155/14) ²⁶. The following month it was noted that a cistern was needed to allow the water to be drawn from the house and the stables at the same time (ibid 155/22) ²⁶. And so the horses at Callendar stables had running water long before the people in Slamannan, who got their supply in 1911. Eventually there were three vaulted cisterns at the lower reservoir in Callendar Park, and an even larger one in the woods.

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Illus 16: Location of stone markers for the water pipelines and other stones.

8 - Air Cock; 10 - Pipe; 20 - no inscription; 14 - no inscription; 15 - Air Cock; 16 - no inscription; 18 - no inscription; 20 - no inscription. 11 - OS 59 A; 17 - Marriage Stone.

In 1814 the height of the park wall was increased – the top of the old work being marked by a horizontal line. At the same time the old internal boundary walls within the park were eliminated to unify the landscape within.



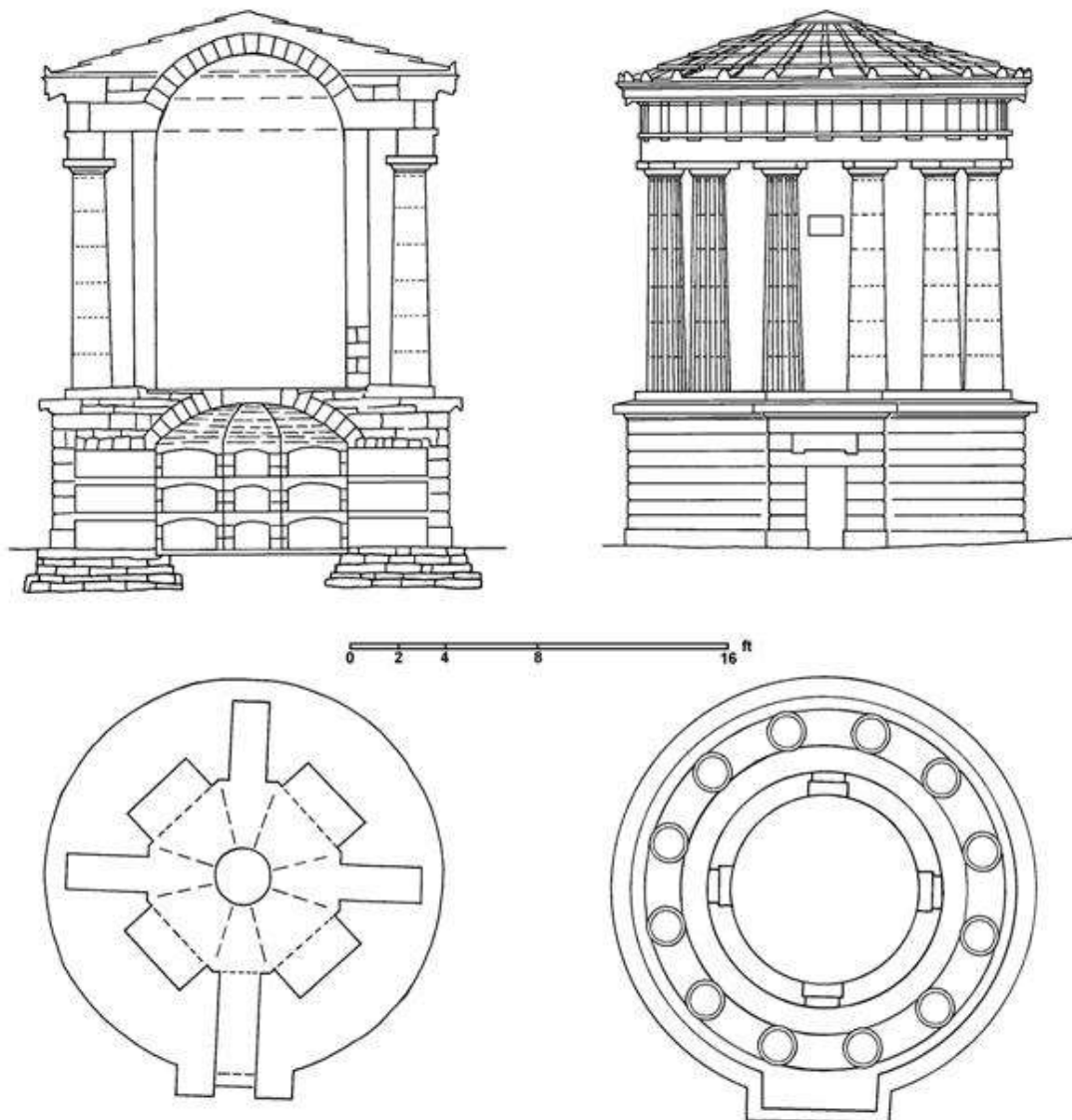
Illus17: Callendar Park looking SW towards the Cascade Bridge.

The iron fence took the place of a stone boundary wall. Sheep crop the grass.

19th CENTURY

In 1815 the first William Forbes died and his trustees commissioned the London based Scottish architect Archibald Elliot (1760-1823) to design a mausoleum. Of the three designs submitted the one chosen took the form of a circular Doric temple 45ft tall. It was constructed in the wood about half a mile from the house and can be seen towering above the trees at the far end of the loch in the print of 1818. The heavily rusticated podium supports a cella and a peristyle of twelve columns under a ribbed stone paved roof. The building is set within a circular enclosure 96m in diameter surrounded by a thick stone wall capped by huge dressed copes. Unfortunately the trees now obscure it from view. The estimated cost was £2,370, most of which was for the Brightons sandstone and the work of the mason, James Hendrie. Ironically it is unlikely that William Forbes himself would have approved of such profligacy.

Illus 18: Sectional and Elevation Views of the Mausoleum.



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At about the same time as the mausoleum was built small groves of yew were planted throughout the wood, though with a slightly heavier concentration on the approaches to the tomb. Most occur adjacent to paths and some are planted on the sites of the landscaped pitheads. The period around 1820 was one of general unrest in the country and a lot of weavers were thrown out of work by the mechanisation of the industry. Like many landowners it would seem that the Forbes family tried to alleviate this situation by providing temporary unskilled employment in the construction of additional gravel paths in the woods. These subsidiary paths – the aggregate length of which may be roughly estimated at something between ten and twenty miles – were partly to aid the harvesting of the wood and partly for the leisure of the family. The eastern part of the wood was replanted with Scots pine (the Ordnance Survey Name Book describes it as “a large mixed wood, principally fir”), presumably because this was the area cropped by the Earl of Errol.

In 1827 the Falkirk Monthly Magazine published a poem about Callendar Wood, which suggests that many bairns still saw it as a public space. “Callendar Wood, during the life of the late proprietor, was the favourite retreat of lovers. *Under the oak or birken tree, concealed from every eye, they breathed their tender tales of love; while*

*“The flowers did vie in all their charms
The hour of heaven to grace.”*

Air - “Lady Mary Ramsay’s Strathspey.”

I like the twinkle o’ your e’e,
Sweet lassie will ye gang we’ me,
And spend the cannie time awee,
In yon sweet wood of Callendar.

The hazel grows, the primrose blows,
The birdies sing, the echoes ring’.
The leaves are green, fair to be seen,
In yon sweet wood of Callendar.

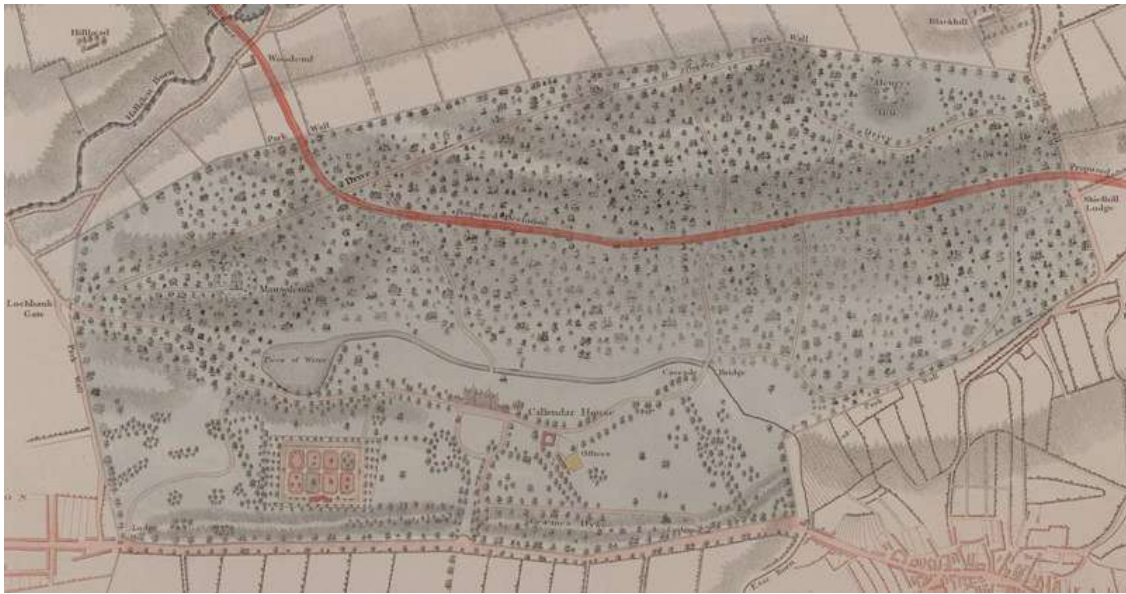
How saftly blows the western breeze!
How sweetly hum, the little bees!
How bright the sun blinks on the trees!
In yon sweet wood of Callendar.

The present hour is in our power,
In youthful prime, then seize on time,
Since life’s a day, let us be gay,
In yon sweet wood of Callendar.

What transport does the season bring -
Like youth, so lovely is the spring;
Then come and hear the mavis sing,
In yon sweet wood of Callendar.

If you’ll agree to gang wi’ me,
I’ll often stand, and press your hand,
And prie your mou’, my bonnie. don,
In yon sweet wood of Callendar.”

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Illus 19: Naysmith's 1818 plan of Callendar Park showing the proposed line of the Union Canal.

Despite all of the disturbances to the loch it was discovered that the leaches, mentioned as early as 1723, had survived and were thriving. In 1811 specimens were taken through to Edinburgh and found to be ideal for medicinal purposes with the result that for a short period they were commercially harvested (Forbes Papers 988/1 & 2)²⁶. The new configuration of water also made the loch suitable for curling matches in the winter and for several years the Falkirk curlers were given free access for that purpose, until purpose made ponds at the old washing green became available (Meikle 1879, 89)⁷. The first recorded curling match was between Grahamston Curling Club and Falkirk Curling Club in 1837 (Falkirk Archives a746.1). Thereafter it seems to have become an annual match, lasting around five hours.

In the second decade of the 19th century plans for the construction of a contour canal from the Forth and Clyde Canal at Lock 16 to Edinburgh, known as the Glasgow and Edinburgh Union Canal, were slowly formulated and a parliamentary bill was sought. The Company's preferred route would have taken the canal through Callendar Wood, cutting across the Slamannan road just above the Shieldhill Lodge and taking an open curving line along the contour to a point near the south-east corner of the park. William Forbes, and after his death the Trustees, vehemently opposed the Bill's passage through parliament, The Forbes Trustees commissioned Alexander Naysmith to produce two water colours of the park in 1818 looking south from the Antonine Wall. One painting showed the existing scene, the other the aspect it would bear if the canal took the deviation. The case was heard before a Committee and rejected with the result that the long tunnel was dug under Prospect Hill.

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Illus 20: Naysmith's painting of Callendar Park with the Union Canal in the background.

Around 1830 the ornamental canal was extended to the west by the construction of a weir at the west end of the park. The weir or [cascade](#) is a curved structure, braced against the pressure of the water, of substantial sandstone blocks with a sluice in the top at the centre. In front of it a small loch was created. The canal and the loch are shown holding water on the 1860 OS map, but by 1870 they had been drained and their banks grassed (Meikle 1879, 89) and have remained so to the present day. It was probably in the 1830s that Callendar Loch was enlarged by extending it to the west. The extension contained four islands, reflecting the more naturalistic landscaping movement.

In 1832 William Forbes, son of the coppersmith, [married](#) Louisa Antoneta Charteris and a tapering sandstone pillar with a chamfered flat top was placed beside the new serpentine pond to commemorate the event. On the top, rather weathered now, are the incised letters "W.F./ L.A.F./ 11 NOV --". This evidently became a family tradition for over the following century and a half the other faces became covered with their initials – one of the latest, on the north face, being for Charles William Forbes on 7th March 1889.

In 1835 the Road Trustees decided to improve the road into Falkirk by replacing the section of the route to the east of the East Burn, removing the tortuous ascent at the Claddans Brae. This act was prompted by the overturning of a mail coach here (Eyre-Todd 1934, 5)³⁰. The road was realigned from a point north of Callendar House. It gradually diverged northward from the previous route, which can still be seen as a distinct tree-lined terrace within the park. The new route was cut into the

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existing contours in order to ease the descent into the valley of the East Burn, where the earth was used to form a large culverted embankment near Marion's Well, 100m north-east of the East Burn Bridge. It joined the High Street at the top of East Bridge Street. The contractor was James Kay (Meikle 1879, 74)⁷. The expanse of land between the new road and the old one was then incorporated into the park. This did not require the estate to acquire more land as it had been part of the outfield. The alteration left the main lodges stranded and so they were demolished and a new one built slightly to the north-west. A new avenue was then constructed, thrusting south from the lodge until it met the avenue to the Shieldhill Lodge near the Cascade Bridge. This route allowed it to utilise an existing belt of beech trees for shade. Between the house and the end of the old belt the avenue continues as lime trees (augmented by purple sycamore in 1993 to fill in gaps).

When the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway was projected in 1840 part of the route struck through the extreme south-west corner of the park, but as it was to be contained in a tunnel no violent protest was made. The tunnelling work hit numerous snags due to the old coal workings, and the town's water supply, but in 1842 the railway was opened. Consequently thousands of passengers daily pass through the park.

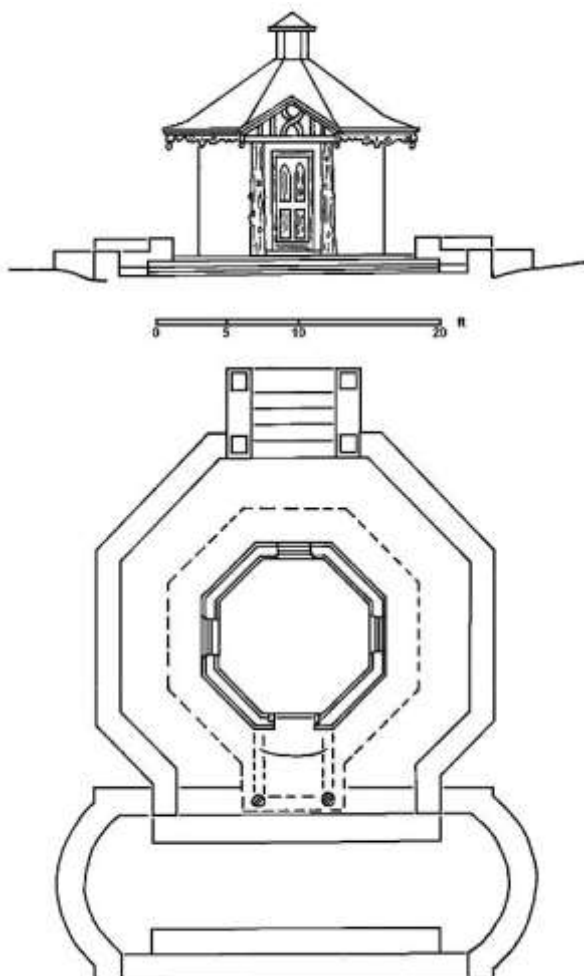
1842 also saw the visit of Queen Victoria to Callendar Park on her way from Stirling to Linlithgow (Bailey 1993)³¹. She entered the park by the main Falkirk gate, which had been decorated for the occasion with a floral arch. Her carriage then took her along the west avenue, suitably lined with floral displays, to the house. Here the horses were changed and then the journey continued by the Lochbank Avenue to the Laurieston Lodge, also adorned with a floral arch. Prince Albert was particularly taken by the line of lime and elm trees beside the loch. The Stirling Journal and Advertiser provides a good feel of the atmosphere on the day: *"It having been arranged that her Majesty was to change horses within Callendar Park, this, as might have been expected, was the great centre of interest. Mr. Forbes, the member for the County, with a liberality which does him the highest honour, threw open his princely demesne to all and sundry without exception. His tenantry, about sixty of them on horseback and double that number on foot, guarded the road, the former occupying the ground immediately opposite her Majesty's guard of honour, the 66th regiment of foot, who stood at the spot where the relay of horses was ready to be yoked to the Royal carriage. Every window and elevation of the streets were occupied, and the high grounds of Callendar Park presented a scene of life and bustle never before witnessed within this noble demesne. The anxiety of the multitude was now at its highest pitch, when about half past one o' clock, Mr. Ramsay of Barnton arrived, announcing the near approach of the Royal company. In half an hour more, the cheering outside proclaimed their arrival, and shortly after two o' clock the cortege entered the grounds. At this moment the crowds who had followed her Majesty through the town rushed into the western gate with a fury which no force could have opposed, every one running at the top of his speed towards the lawn before the house to get a second glimpse of the Queen. In this they were not disappointed, as the avenue is circuitous, and the pressure of the crowd on the Royal carriage such as baffled all the attempts of the yeomanry and the soldiers to*

keep back. The cheering from 15,000 voices was absolutely deafening. Mr. Forbes and the Earl of Zetland accompanied the Royal party; the former in the uniform of a Deputy-Lieutenant, the latter at the head of a large body of his tenantry. Her Majesty entered into conversation with her host, during the four minutes the carriages were drawn up for the purpose of changing horses and was graciously pleased to express to Mr. Forbes her acknowledgements for his attention."

The trees along the side of the loch are open to the wind and it would appear that shortly after the Royal visit many were lost, for the size of the present trees suggests that they were planted around 1830-1855. Even these lean dramatically towards the loch (in 1990 their crowns were reduced to prevent further wind blow).

The course of the Midland Junction Railway passed through the north-east corner of the park in 1847 on a curving embankment carrying it over the main road by the Skew Bridge. This cut off the Laurieston Lodge from the park and the following year a new lodge was constructed 200m to the west as a replacement. This required a new length of avenue to link up to its predecessor, and included another cutting through the Antonine Wall just east of the walled garden. It was at this time that the skeletons were found adjacent to the Thane's Hall.

Illus 21: North Elevation and Plan of the Summerhouse in the Arboretum. The steps and the surrounding parapet walls are still visible.



Around 1855 an [arboretum](#) was inserted into open ground between the wood and the ornamental canal to the south of the house. It incorporated some of the oak trees that formerly stood within the wood, as is shown from the tapering form of their trunks. There are also specimen conifers, mostly Scots pine, and several Western Red Cedars (the latter 3.5-4.5m in girth). The perimeter of the arboretum was defined by a curving iron fence. An avenue again ran on the central axis of the house to a new [summerhouse](#) of rustic wood construction set on an octagonal plinth surround by stone dwarf walls and accessed by steps. The old sundials were placed on this avenue; one to the south of the bridge over the ornamental canal, and the other beside the summerhouse. Near the canal the trees and bushes were kept neatly trimmed. North of the canal yews were planted along with topiary shrubs. Hollies were also found here, providing a quilt work of evergreen near the house and

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unifying the two. The arboretum is believed to be the work of the third William Forbes. Elsewhere the trees were allowed to mature. The OS Gazetteer noted "*Five splendid limes are in front of the mansion, a magnificent avenue of planes on the east leads to a lochlet full of aquatic vegetation.*"³²

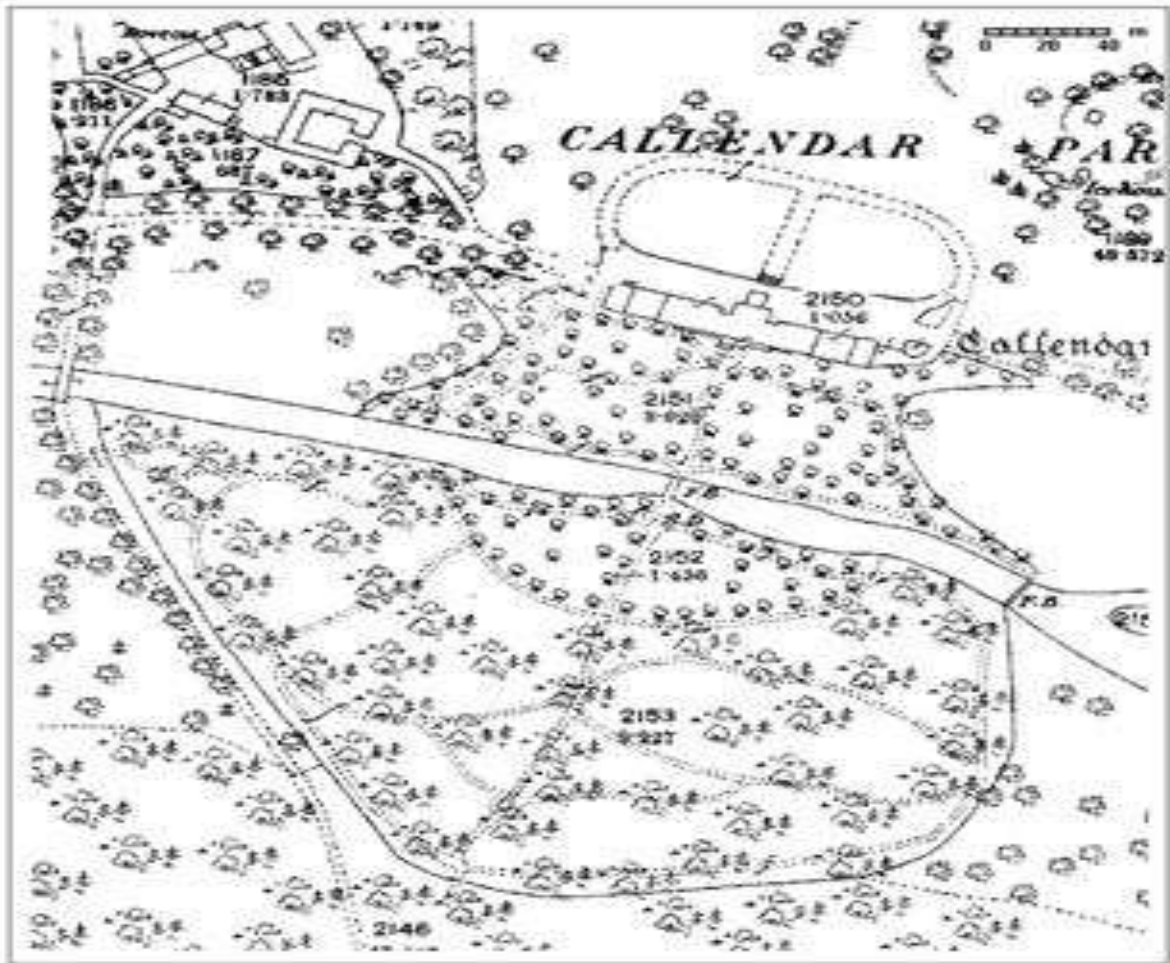
Some trees were given extra significance and there is still a tradition amongst local people that a group of four represented the Four Marys of the Queen of Scots. Various locations have been put forward for these personalised trees, including the west end of the House and the great lawn. However, no reference can be found to them in the literature.

At the top of the hill an observatory is shown on the first edition OS map. Its site can still be picked out as a slight mound on the summit of the hill at the west end of the hill fort. It was probably a wooden structure. It was a place from which to observe, much as a gazebo was a place to gaze from. The wood remained a valuable asset and in 1880 the Agricultural Society noted that the total income from the entire estate, including minerals, was estimated at £19,811 a year. Of this amount £9,868 was from the parish of Falkirk, derived from sixty separate subjects, including the mansion-house, garden, and offices, valued at £550; the woods, copse, and underwood, £400 a year, and the colliery of Pirleyhill and Standalane, rented at £1463, 13s. 4 (Transactions of the Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland 1880).

Along the east side of the estate road in front of the factor's house and dairy a path lined with lime trees was put in around 1880 to judge from the size of the trees. This is orientated upon the mound to the south, which first appears on the fourth edition of the Ordnance Survey maps. This latter is more likely to be a mistaken omission on the earlier maps than a new construction.

It was probably at this time that the lawn to the south of the House was created and laid out with paths and lozenge-shaped flower beds. Stone flights of stairs from a first floor balcony now led from the principal rooms to a raised platform with a new terrace wall. The paths formed four plots, the easternmost of which contained a shallow oval depression, possibly a curling pond. A sundial was placed in the centre of the lawn, replaced around 1920 by a three-tiered fountain. The position of all of these features can still be seen as parch marks in dry summers. Two detached elevated octagonal wooden game ladders were erected on the edge of the wooded area at the east end of the House, near the larder extension design by David Hamilton.

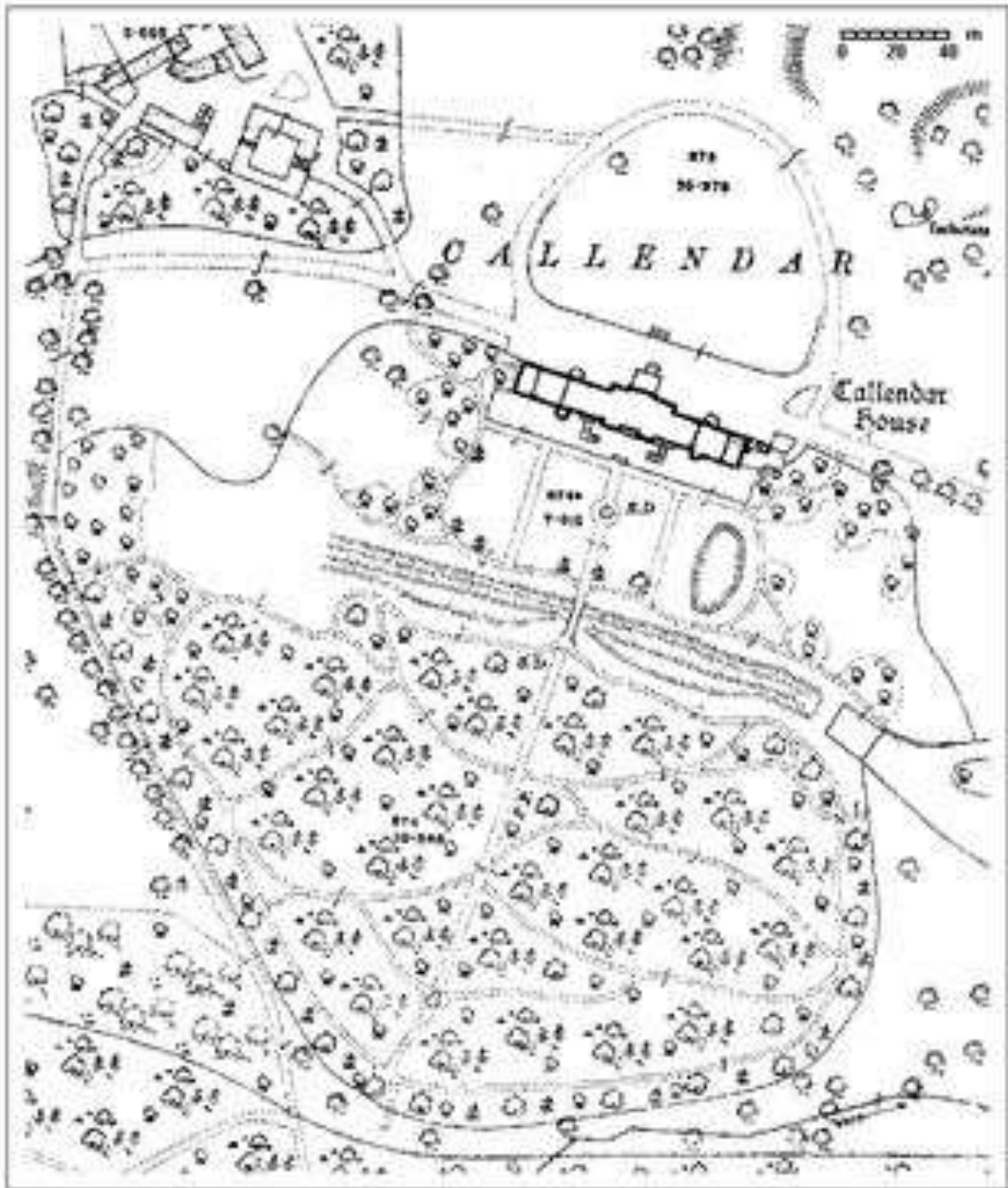
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Illus 22:
Above – 1st ed Os Map of the Arboretum Area.

Next Page – 3^d ed OS Map.

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20th CENTURY

During the Second World War the trees in Callendar Wood were needed for the war effort and required extensive replanting afterwards. Much of this new planting was spruce and was ready for commercial logging in the 1980s. A screen of pine trees was also placed on the upcast mound of the Antonine Wall. Throughout the 1950s the park was periodically thrown open to the public for horse trials and garden fetes. The latter were usually in connection with the Unionist parliamentary campaigns, which were supported by the Forbes family. The factor's house was converted into flats for estate workers and part of the old stable block included accommodation for the dairyman.



Illus 23: Eastburn and Belmont Towers looking east.

Falkirk was bursting at the seams and Falkirk Town Council sought means of expanding the housing capacity. In 1958 it approached Colonel Forbes in order to acquire building land, but received a refusal to sell piecemeal. Partly as a consequence the park, excluding the wood, was acquired through compulsory purchase in 1963.

The following year high rise flats (14 stories tall) were proposed as the underground coal workings made wide scale housing difficult. Building began in 1965 and continued until 1969 in a series of phases. Apart from the western two blocks of flats, which were named Eastburn and Belmont, they were named after councillors – Leishman, Marshall, Maxwell, Paterson and Symon. The bold straight lines, inclement balconies and wide grass verges and paths in the parkland setting provided an idealised modernist townscape. In 1969 a new road, Kemper Avenue, was constructed over the West Burn, raising the ground level substantially, to provide access to the north-west corner of the park and the following year Corentin Court and Breton Court were erected. The home farm that had occupied the area to the south of Breton Court was demolished. It was 1973 before the west end of Finistere Avenue was developed for housing.

The walled garden at the opposite end of the park was developed in 1964 when the interior was bulldozed and a college of education constructed. Most of the principal buildings were of wooden prefabricated construction with a design life of 25 or so years, but the residential blocks along the west wall were more substantial. In the event the life of the college was curtailed and in 1977 it was announced that it would close, but got a last moment reprieve. This, however, was only to last a couple of years. After short uses by nurses it was demolished in 1989 and redeveloped by Central Regional Council as a business park. As part of this the Laurieston Lodge was demolished in 1990. The tennis courts of the college lay to the south-east and in the 1990s were used for the massive new offices of the Child Support Agency.

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After 1963 Falkirk Council opened up the park to the public. Over a number of years apprentices reduced the height of the north wall of the park to 3ft. Birch trees in a triangular plot at the northern end of the main avenue, now called Queen's Avenue, echoed the park's new role as a public space, as did flower beds along the Callendar Road frontage. Peacocks and cows still roamed the inner sections of the park. With the completion of the construction work on the flats the pace of alterations in the park quickened in the 1970s. Beech hedges were planted along the southern side of the south avenue and along the edge of Kemper Avenue. More in keeping with the design landscape was the addition in 1972 of more native and exotic species of trees to the arboretum, including conifer cultivars and the George Forrest collection. Recreational facilities were developed to increase the park's use. In the 1970s the Loch was extended for use as a boating pond, complete with jetty and booking office. A timber palisaded fort soon followed just to the north. On the west side of the house swings and slides attracted the younger children. Here too a miniature railway was put in place. This consisted of a raised track upon which a local enthusiast ran model steam engines pulling the young passengers on carriages astride the track. Further west again was a putting green. In the centre of this area a toilet block, shop kiosk and seating area were placed. These were typical of civic brick architecture of the period, with cantilevered flat roofs.

Some features were lost. About 1970 the fountain on the south lawn collapsed when a large number of children stood in the elevated basins. The rustic summerhouse could not be expected to survive. The ice-house was filled in and used as a goat-house.

In the 1970s the lawn in front of the house was frequently used for events. In 1975, for example, there was a children's cavalcade, sports days, the Forth Valley Music show and a five nation folk dance. There were also performances by Maori dancers, a Venezuelan orchestra, the Delaware Youth Jazz band, the Red Deer Royals, the Warren Junior Military Band, the Hertfordshire Youth Band and the Falkirk Fiddlers' Tryst. In 1972 it had attracted the rock band Slade. Local talent was often displayed and in 1987 an historic pageant called Marie R was performed on the south lawn by the Falkirk Arts and Civic Society. At that time there were annual Spring Flings and Family Shows.

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Illus 24: Aerial Photograph showing Municipal Tennis Courts on the South Lawn.

In 1994 a new safe play area was created for children; known as “Castle Callendar” it was surrounded by a large metal fence and entered by a drawbridge that could be lifted at night. This enabled the crazy golf course to its south to be extended and improved. The leaking flat roof of the kiosk was replaced with a pitched roof.

Some dates associated with this civic era are given here:

1971: Pitch and Putt area opened.

1973: Crazy Golf course constructed.

1978 Loch extended to the east creating a large island.

1987 Monoblock access taken off east end of Seaton Place and a car park placed under the trees in front of the old dairy.

1994/5 Path Lighting.

1994-1996 Restoration of the House as a museum.

2000: Milk House converted into an art gallery with a green cellular security shutter.

The Park Gallery moved into Callendar House in 2012.

2013 Flats reclad.

All the while the park continued to change as a result of the passing of the seasons. Natural tree regeneration has been allowed to occur on the south side of the loch extending the edge of the wood. The boating pond has largely silted up. The veteran trees have slowly disappeared, partly as a result of some severe gales in the late 1990s. New planting occurred in 1994 to alleviate the transition of the tree-lined avenues.



Illus 25: The Cascade Bridge in 1972 by Shieldhill artist J Sneddon.

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APPENDIX 1

1812 Tree Survey

The 1812 tree survey published by Sir John Sinclair in 1814³⁷ arose from the following comments in Graham's 1812 report, p.228: "The timber in the lawn at Callendar house is remarkable for its age and quantity and size, and the area of its having been planted approaches to a certainty. The Earl of Callendar had accompanied Charles II in his exile, during the commonwealth. Upon his return, at the restoration, he employed himself in embellishing his estate, in the style that he had observed on the continent, and particularly in planting various kinds of forest trees. These trees are now, of consequence, a century and a half old..."

The survey can be found in Chapter X, App No 6, p.482: "The following very accurate measurement of 13 Timber Trees in the Lawn of Callander, near Falkirk, has been obligingly communicated to the Reporter by William Forbes, Esq. the proprietor.

No. 1.—ASH.		No. 2.—ASH.		No. 4.—OAK.		No. 5.—continued.		No. 7.—continued.		No. 10.—BEECH.						
Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.					
6	35 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	34 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	19	9	8	25					
25	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	24	4	28	9	6	8	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	22					
6	11	19	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	13	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	8	24	15					
11	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	24	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	6	The contents in solid feet			21	12				
10	16	24	13	10	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	18 $\frac{1}{4}$	244 feet 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.			12	17				
8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	11	15	9	10	10	No. 8.—ELM.			6	14 $\frac{1}{4}$				
11	18	17	12	8	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	6	11	23	The contents in solid feet			17	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
11	12	17	8	6	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	12	17	14	132 feet 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			8	7		
6	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	8	8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	13	No. 11.—BEECH.			6	14 $\frac{1}{4}$		
13	8	5	7	8	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	14	12	17	10	The contents in solid feet			17	10 $\frac{1}{4}$
8	16	The contents in solid feet		13	8	The contents in solid feet		11	10	159 feet 6 inch.			11	10		
14	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	216 feet 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.		5	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	184 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		19	11	No. 12.—PLANE.			18	7		
14	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	No. 3.—ASH.		12	7	No. 5.—OAK.		10	16	The contents in solid feet			18	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
15	8	11	26	6	6	6	29	No. 6.—OAK.			15	25				
12	17	8	16	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	22	9	26 $\frac{1}{4}$	155 feet 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			10	14		
13	9	8	8	11	11	17	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	No. 9.—ELM.			13	17 $\frac{1}{4}$		
10	8	8	8	The contents in solid feet		17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	10	The contents in solid feet			15	11 $\frac{1}{4}$		
15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	184 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		10	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	109 feet 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$		
8	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	9	No. 5.—OAK.		17	7	9	8	No. 10.—BEECH.			15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$		
3	19 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	29	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	The contents in solid feet			8	7 $\frac{1}{4}$		
11	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	15	8	22	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	13	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	155 feet 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$		
11	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	7	13	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	No. 11.—BEECH.			18	10 $\frac{1}{4}$		
8	7	11	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	6	11	10	The contents in solid feet			18	7 $\frac{1}{4}$		
13	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	20	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	7	The contents in solid feet		13	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	126 feet 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			18	8		
11	9	The contents in solid feet		7	6	126 feet 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		8	6	No. 12.—PLANE.			18	8		
310 feet 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		128 feet 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	No. 7.—ELM.		The contents in solid feet		90 feet 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			19	13 $\frac{1}{4}$		
No. 12.—PLANE.		No. 13.—continued.		No. 5.—OAK.		No. 7.—ELM.		No. 9.—ELM.		No. 10.—BEECH.		No. 11.—BEECH.		No. 12.—PLANE.		
Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	Lengths in feet at different dimensions	$\frac{1}{4}$ of circumference in inches & $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.	
5	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	6	6	29	13	30 $\frac{1}{4}$	19	20	19	11	8	25	9	24 $\frac{1}{4}$	
22	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	21	8	22	6	22 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	13	10	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	10	14	12	28	
13	9	9	7	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	8	15	12	12	13	11	12	17 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	35	
The contents in solid feet		10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	12	14	11	15	10	10	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	18	
343 feet 7 inch.		13	13	12	7	17	12	16	11	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	15	
No. 13.—PLANE.		19	13	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	21	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	15	8	15	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	7	
19	30	9	8	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	18	7	13	10	18	8	
10	18	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	12	6	17	7	11	8	18	8	9	7	12	7	
13	9	13	13	5	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	9	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	19	8	12	7	18	8	
21	7	19	8	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	11	17	10	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	19	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	29	11	19	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	
The contents in solid feet		9	8	7	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	22	10	2	7	29	11	29	13 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	24	
172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		The contents in solid feet		9	8	124 feet 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		The contents in solid feet		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.			17	7 $\frac{1}{4}$		
172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		172 feet 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.		

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It will appear, upon inspection, that all the measurable timber, that is, all that squares 6 inches, is calculated. The solid, or cubic feet, are given, at the various lengths, both of the trunks and branches, that are measurable. The column on the left hand, accordingly, shows the lengths in feet, in the different dimensions taken: the column on the right hand, shows one-fourth of the circumference, in inches and half-inches. The cubic contents of each tree is added at the bottom. It is confidently hoped, that this will appear to be an important document, regarding the Timber which is, and which may be, produced in Scotland.”

The measurements were taken by the gardener (Forbes Papers 972/21, 28 May 1811)²⁶.

Callendar Park - FLHS

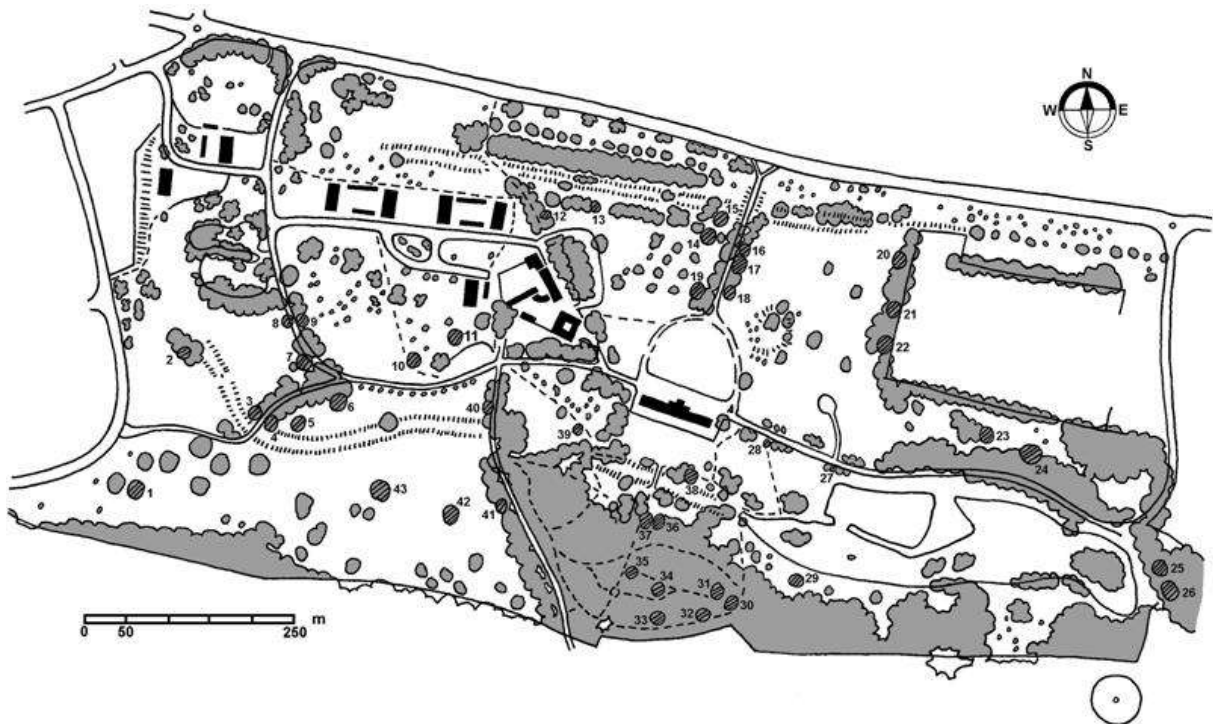
APPENDIX 2

1994 Sample Tree Survey

Ref no	Species	Girth (m)	Location	Estimated Age in yrs
1	oak	3.30	Parkland individual/ pitch & putt	165
2	beech	2.24	Parkland group	112
3	lime	3.00	Avenue by bridge	150
4	lime	2.45	Avenue by bridge	122
5	cherry	2.30	Parkland individual/ pitch & putt	115
6	oak	3.86	Parkland individual/ pitch & putt	193
7	beech	4.75	West avenue	238
8	lime	2.84	West avenue	142
9	beech	4.13	West avenue	206
10	lime	2.91	West avenue	145
11	sycamore	4.35	Parkland individual/ nr play area	218
12	lime	2.20	North west avenue	110
13	oak	2.03	Line by Antonine Wall	110
14	sycamore	4.36	Individual near Queens Avenue	218
15	oak	4.20	Individual near Queens Avenue	210
16	sycamore	4.10	Queens Avenue	205
17	sycamore	3.86	Queens Avenue	193
18	sycamore	4.98	Queens Avenue	250
19	lime	3.42	Group nr Queens Avenue	170
20	horse chestnut	2.73	West of walled garden	136
21	beech	5.03	West of walled garden	250
22	beech	4.23	West of walled garden	212
23	oak	3.84	Group south of walled garden	192
24	oak	3.62	Belt south of walled garden	180
25	beech	6.19	Row on esker east of the loch	310
26	beech	5.20	Row on esker east of the loch	260
27	lime	2.78	East avenue	140
28	lime	3.40	East avenue	170
29	ash	4.57	Parkland individual south of loch	228
30	Western red cedar	4.57	Arboretum (east side)	150
31	Scots pine	2.90	Arboretum (east side)	145
32	pine	3.89	Arboretum (east side)	195
33	pine	3.03	Arboretum (east side)	152
34	Western Red cedar	3.57	Arboretum (central)	120
35	holly	1.62	Arboretum (central)	81
36	yew	3.91	Arboretum (north side)	195
37	pine	4.05	Arboretum (north side)	202
38	lime	2.97	Group south of house	150
39	lime	2.89	Group by crazy golf	145

Callendar Park - FLHS

Ref no	Species	Girth (m)	Location	Estimated Age in yrs
40	lime	3.06	South avenue	150
41	lime	2.83	South avenue	140
42	oak	4.49	Parkland individual/ pitch & putt	225
43	oak	3.70	Parkland individual/ pitch & putt	185



Illus 2.1: Location of trees in the 1994 survey.

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APPENDIX 3

Plants in the Arboretum

George Forrest Collection	Arboretum & George Forrest planting in 1970s
Rhododendron 'pink pearl'	Abies procera
Sorbus aria 'Magnifica'	Thuja plicata
Cotoneaster serotinus	Cedrus atlantica
Cotoneaster lacteus	Cedrus atlantica glauca
Lonicera maackii	Cedrus libani
Daphne odora	Taxus baccata
Deutzia purpurascens	Taxus baccata 'Aurea'
Pieris Formosa 'Forrestii'	Taxus baccata 'Fastigiata'
Ligustrum delavaymum	Picea pungens glauca
Rhododendron valentianum	Pseudotsuga menziesii
Rhododendron griersonianum	Tilia x europaea
Rhododendron fluvum	Ulmus glabra
Osmanthus yunnanensis	Fraxinus excelsor
Acer giraldii	Fraxinus excelsior 'Pendula'
Berberis jamesiana	Quercus petraea
Rhododendron scintillans	Quercus robur
Sorbus intermedia	Aesculus glabra
Rhododendron sanguineum 'Didymum'	Aesculus hippocastanum
Pieris forrestii 'Wakenhurst'	Aesculus x carnea
Pieris japonica	Fagus sylvatica
Cotoneaster pannosus	Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'
Rhododendron lepidostylum	Prunus avium
Acer forrestii	Crataegus monogyna
Cameillia reticulata	Salix caprea
Rhododendron trichostomum	Corylus avellana
Deutzia longifolia	Carpinus betulas
Berberis amoena	Laburnum x vosii
Sorbus commixta	Sorbus aucuparia
Buddleia fallowiana	Acer pseudoplatanus
Rhododendron brachyanthum	Acer pseudoplatanus 'Variegatum'
Meliosma cunefolia	Liriodendron tulipifera
Cotoneaster glaucophyllus	Betula pendula
Sorbus aria 'Majestica'	Pinus sylvestris
Rhododendron decorum	Ilex aquifolium
Osmanthus delavayi	Picea abies
Rhododendron praestans	Picea smithiana
Deutzia monbeigii	Sequoia gigantea
Cotoneaster salicifolia	Juniperus communis 'Compressa'
Cotoneaster henryana	Juniperus sheppardii
Rhododendron 'Wilgen's Ruby'	Juniperus spp.

Table: List of Plants in the Arboretum.

Callendar Park - FLHS



Illus 3.1: Callendar Loch looking West.

Note the contrast between the open grass edges of the water and the arboretum beyond.

APPENDIX 4

Historic Monuments

Brief descriptions of the following individual monuments will be found below in this order:

[Callendar Woods Hill Fort](#) (SMR 1188) ³⁸

[Sundials](#) (SMR 653 & 564) ³⁸

[Callendar Loch](#)

[Stables – Quadrangle](#) (SMR 579) ³⁸

[Stables & Offices](#)

[Doocot](#) (SMR 13) ³⁸

[Walled Garden](#) & Servants Graveyard (SMR 825) ³⁸

[Ice-house](#) (SMR 60) ³⁸

[Marriage Stone](#)

[Kennels](#) (SMR 581) ³⁸

[Barrel Well](#) (SMR 1452) ³⁸

[Cascade Bridge](#) (SMR 578) ³⁸

[Cascade](#)

[Mausoleum](#) (SMR 577) ³⁸

[Fibonacci Spiral](#)

[Lodges](#)

[Summerhouse](#)

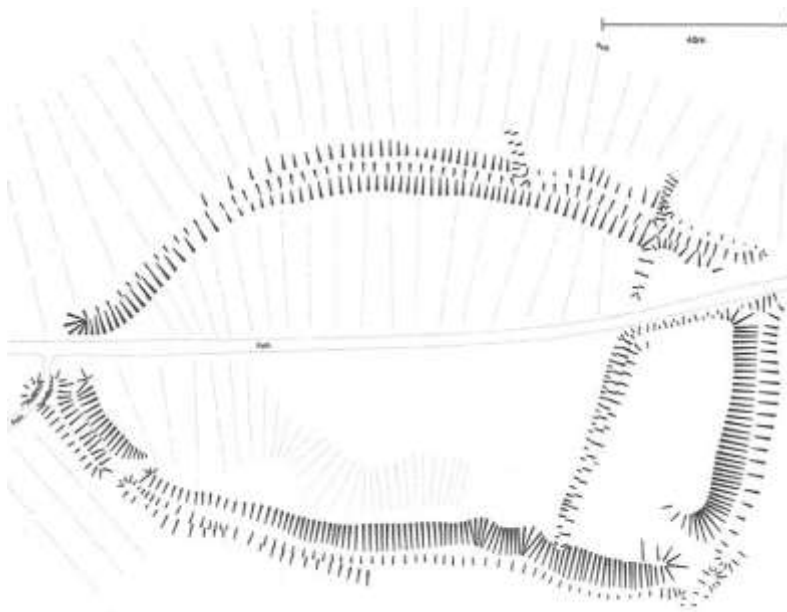
[First Battle of Falkirk Monument](#)

Callendar Park - FLHS

Callendar Woods Hill Fort (SMR 1188)³⁸:

The site of the hill fort is located on the high ground at the south edge of Callendar Woods (NS 8950 7860) overlooking the town of Falkirk. It occupies the east end of an east/west ridge approximately 110m above sea level. The land falls away into the valley of the Glen Burn to the south and the Forth Valley to the north.

Illus 4.1: Plan of the Hill Fort by Ben Edwards for the Forestry Commission.



The hill fort is distinguished by a single perimeter ditch forming an irregular oval-shaped enclosure with its axis 149m along the ridge. The north-south dimension is approximately 77m. In places the ditch is as much as 5m wide and 1.5m deep. The south-east corner of the fort is more prominent than the others, but here it is crossed by a recent estate road. The main metalled late 18th century estate track occupies the summit

of the ridge and bisects the fort.

The southern ditch lies only 8m from the estate wall. The site was discovered in 2002 by G Bailey, but it was only with subsequent removal of the dense undergrowth of rhododendrons that this was confirmed.

The Sundials (SMR 653 & 564)³⁸:



The two sundials presumably stood in the walled garden to the north of Callendar House until the late 18th century. The older one, dating to 1677, was subsequently moved to the south side of the House and then up to the summerhouse. It consists of a knobbed obelisk shaft rising from a rough square base to support a cubical dial-head. The chamfered angles of the dial are carved with face masks. One side of this bears the incised date 1677, and another the initials “AN” and “EC”. As these cannot be recognised as the initials of anyone associated with Callendar House it is possible that the sundial was imported from another of the Forbes’ properties when the arboretum was created. The total height of the sundial is 3ft, but this diminutive size may be due to remodelling.

Illus 4.2: The Summerhouse Sundial.

The other sundial stood on the south side of the ornamental canal on the main avenue, at a distance of 88m from the House. It had a square shaft rising from a stepped and moulded plinth and supporting an octagonal dial-head in the form of a bulged capital. Typical of late 17th century Scottish sundials it was covered with a number of geometrically shaped hollow dials. It too had evidently been truncated and stood to a height of 4ft 1ins. A coat-of-arms appeared in relief on one side of the shaft. The shield was charged: quarterly, 1st and 4th, three gillyflowers within a tressure, for Livingston; 2nd and 3rd, a bend between six billets, for Callendar; en surtout an escutcheon, now blank. Above the shield was an earl’s coronet together with the incised initials E/IL, presumably for James, the fifth and last Earl of Linlithgow, who succeeded to the title in 1695. A copper dial by Adie of Edinburgh was later inset on the top of the dial-head, which is said to have been removed c1970.

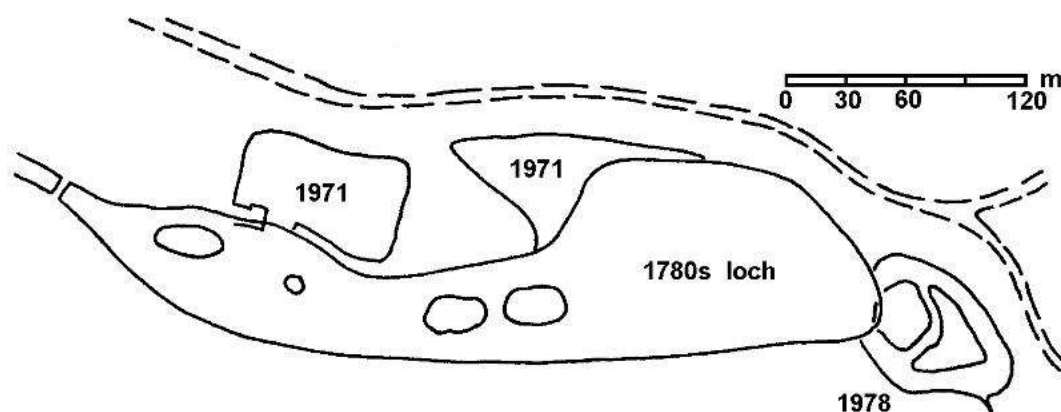


Illus 4.3: The Earl’s Sundial.

The location of neither sundial is currently known.

Callendar Loch:

The loch was mentioned by Johnstone of Kirkland in 1723¹⁷ and was obviously a natural feature. It appears to have been shallow and poorly defined, and contained leaches. A tree-lined drive along its north bank was planted in the late 17th century and became known as the Lochbank Avenue. It led to Westquarter, then owned by a cadet family of the Livingstons. In 1787 the black silt on the margins of the loch was removed and over the following years a large kidney shaped lake created, complete with islands, in accordance to plans by the landscape designer Driver. It remained in this form until the 1970s when Falkirk Council began a number of extensions in order to open it up for recreational use. In 1971 an unsightly square protrusion was appended on the north side at the west end for boating purposes, separated from the original loch by two tongues of earth. A booking office was erected at the end of the west jetty. Over the decades since then this part of the loch inevitably silted up and it is here that ice first forms in the winter months, tempting pupils from the nearby high school to venture out. It was probably also in 1971 that a spur of marshy ground to the east of this was incorporated into the open water, altering the former natural curves. By 1978, when the extension on the east end of the loch was made, designs had improved and large islands were incorporated to encourage wildlife. A new overflow now led excess water away to the north-east, presumably because the old pipe along the line of the East Burn was having trouble coping in times of excessive rainfall.



Illus 4.4: Plan showing the 190s additions to Callendar Loch.

The Stables – Quadrangle (SMR 579) ³⁸:

The quadrangular block at the south of the stables (NS 8972 7944) is the oldest part of the complex. It appears to belong to the 1680s or 1690s and had deteriorated to such a condition by 1785 that it had to be completely gutted and refurbished. It is located 105m WNW of the House with its main facade facing it. The block measures 17.5m by 29.0m and is two-storeyed throughout with a central courtyard entered on the east by a pend 3m wide and one opposite in the west range only 1.2m wide. Due to later alterations the original arrangement is uncertain, but it is known that the upper floor included lofts for the storage of agricultural produce.



Illus 4.5: The Main Facade of the Stable Block before removal of the Loupin-on Stone and Cobbles.

The main facade is that facing the house and is faced with rough ashlar in marked contrast to the other sides, which are harled. This facade also has a slight plinth, projecting only 3cm,

with finer ashlar carrying horizontal brotching (the plinth may date to 1815 when there is a reference to “underbuilding” on the main and south sides of the offices). The quoins at either end are raised with V-channels between them. In the centre is the pend with an elliptical arch having backset margins and keyblocks. To either side of this are three rectangular windows with masons’ marks on their margins. Vertically above these, and above the pend, are seven square windows under the eaves (those to the south of the pend have subsequently been enlarged into the roof space and given piended heads. The style of fenestration, with small square upper windows is repeated throughout the block, though the original pattern is uncertain. The plinth also continues along the south facade.

The stables were used in 1746 to house the horses of the Hanoverian army (Bailey 1996)³⁴, with the permission of Lady Anne Livingston. After her departure they were rented out and used for storage. In 1780 widow Leishman had the key and was using the loft to dry lintseed (NLS Acc 5381). William Forbes began the refurbishment in 1785, Edward Brazier providing the designs, which included a possible spire (Forbes Papers 268/16)²⁶. The floors and the roof were replaced by John Moir, a well known Falkirk joiner. The upper floor was still to be used for storage and 143 linear feet of plate iron was ordered to be put around the skirting of the corn loft to keep the rats out (ibid 282/6). Two of the great lofts were intended for hay. The facade facing the house was retained, as is shown by the following

correspondence in 1787: “Three parts of the stables is white cast which is as much as is roofed in. It was never determined whether the front should be whitened or not, it being a better sort of work, I think it should, because now it looks black and old like beside the other” (ibid 349/15 – 19 May 1789)²⁶.

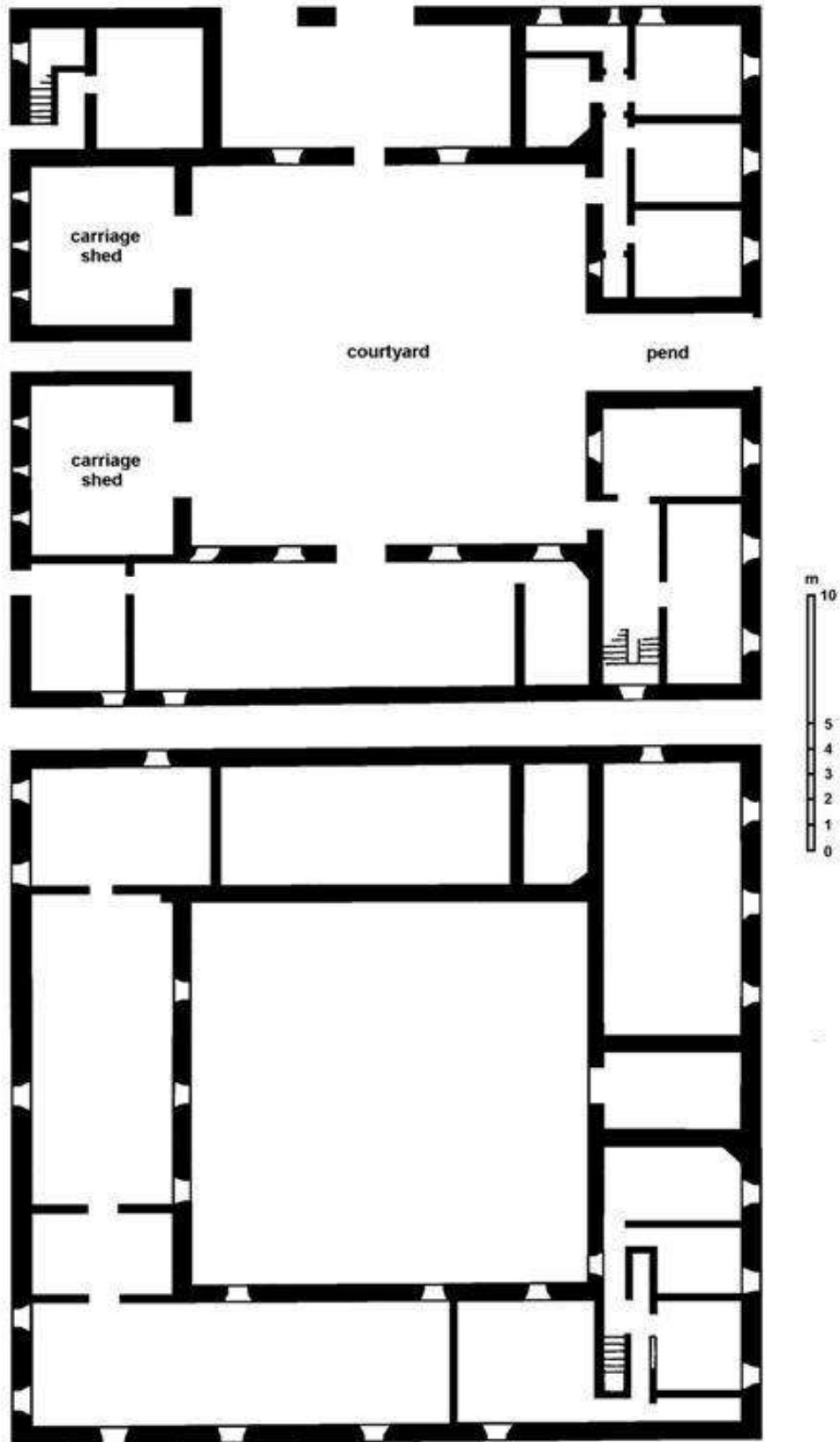


Illus 4.6: Stable Courtyard looking NW in 1995.

It may have been at this time that the courtyard was re-arranged using similar architectural devices (the backset margins and keyblocks) to include coach houses, one to either side of the pedestrian pend in the west range. In 1787 the stables housed “One chariot, one post chaise, two carriage horses, three saddle horses” (ibid 230/1) ²⁶. A loupin-on stone outside the block, just to the north of the main pend, allowed the family to mount their charges as they left the stables. Unfortunately, this and the cobbled area in front were removed by an over-zealous council official in 1996.

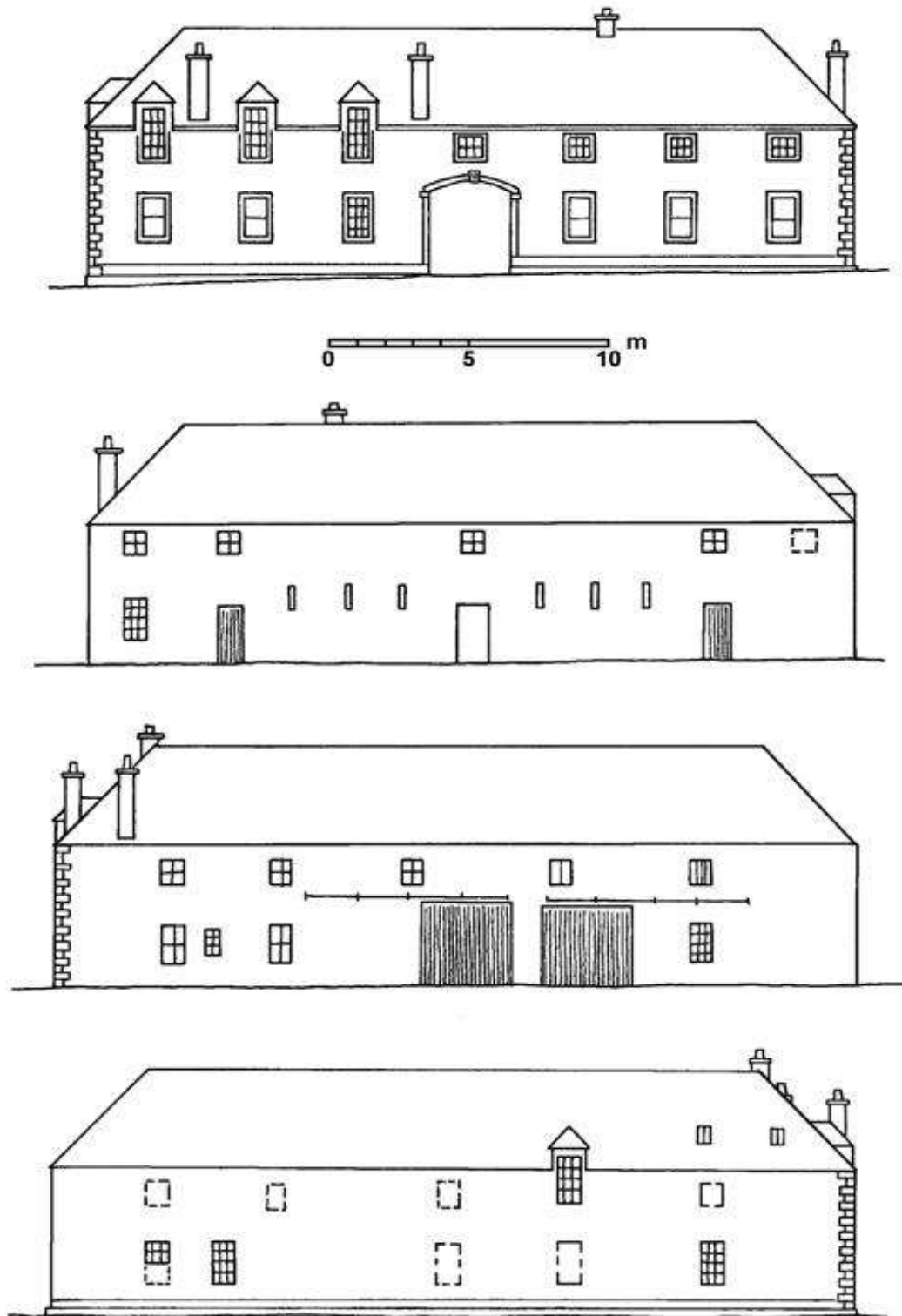
In the Second World War the stables were used by the Polish army for the storage of ammunition. This should have been a secure location, but some small arms ammunition was unofficially borrowed by the Falkirk Home Guard (Bailey 2008, 69)³⁵. After the war the east range was used as accommodation for the dairyman and it was probably then that the upper floor windows were raised and some of the chimneys added. At some time in the 20th century large openings to take machinery were made in the external north wall and fitted with hanging slide-doors.

In the 1990s a scheme to roof over the courtyard and convert the stable block into a theatre never really got off the ground. Similarly a proposal in 2013 to use it as an archive foundered due to lack of finance.

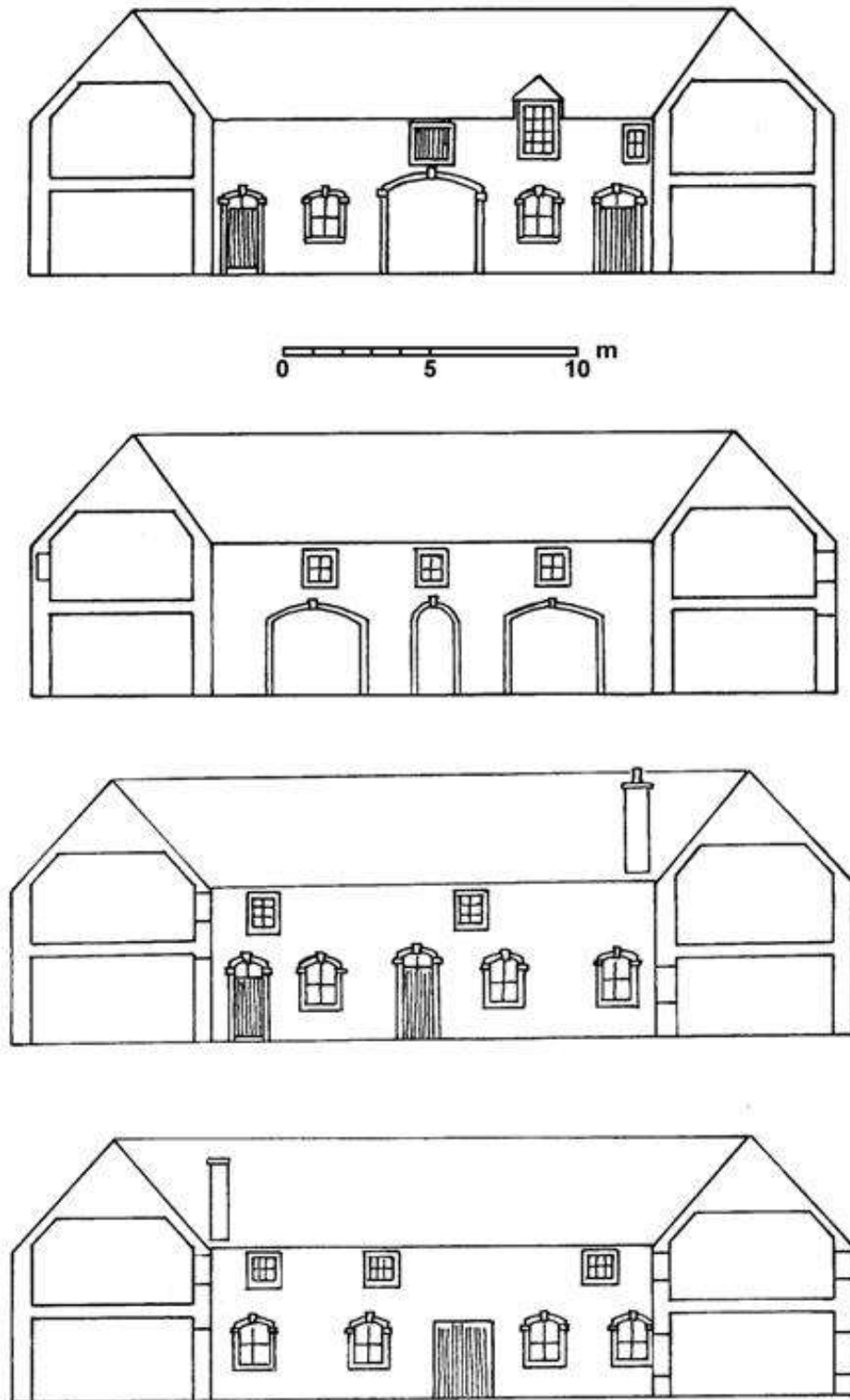


Illus 4.7: Plan of Ground Floor (top) and First Floor (bottom) of the Stable Quadrangle.

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Illus 4.8: Elevations of the Exterior of the Stable Quadrangle in the following order – East, West, North and South.



Illus 4.9: Elevations of the Courtyard of the Stable Quadrangle in the following order – East, West, North and South.

The Stables & Offices:

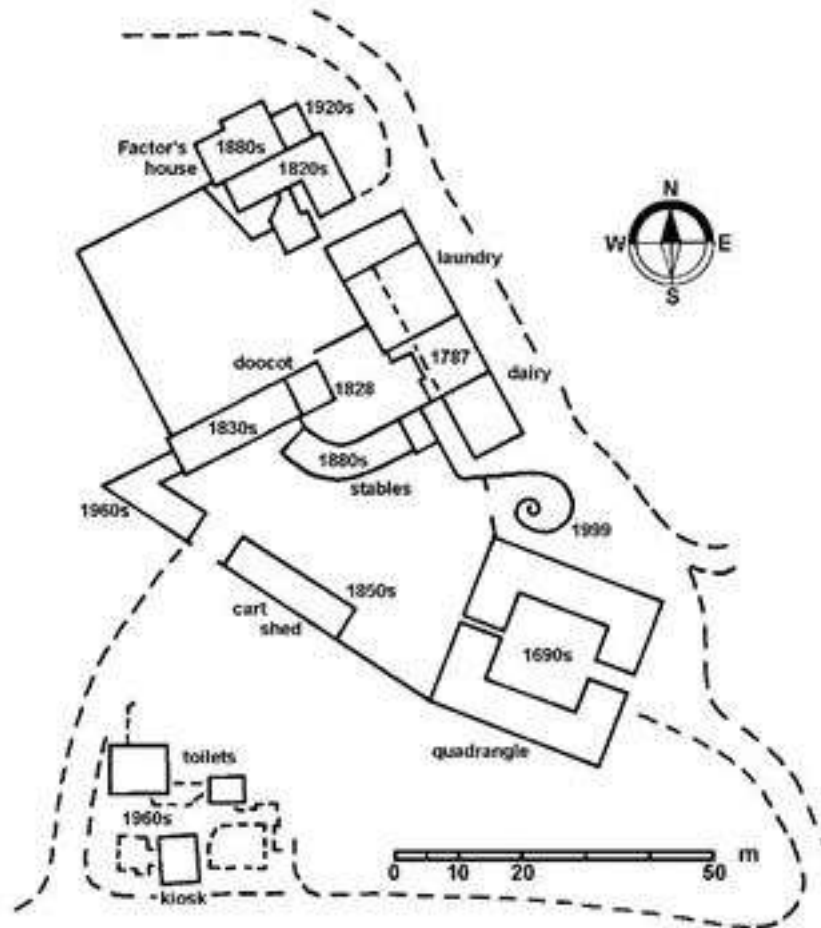
To the north-west of the late 17th century stable block was the great barn, part of whose storage function it had evidently usurped. The field to the west was known as Barnyard Park and it is probable that the barn was a late medieval construction. It is shown on Roy's map of 1755, but appears to have gone by the time that the estate map of 1781 was drawn up, though a small enclosure occurs in the same area. In the 1780s new "offices" were constructed for William Forbes at the same time as the stable block was refurbished. These can be seen on the 1818 plan fronting the avenue that led north-west from the stables. They consequently had a different alignment than the older building. The offices were part of the usual appurtenances of a country house and would have included a laundry, replacing the washhouse south-east of the House on the edge of the wood. A small milk house and dairy would have provided milk for the household. Certainly, the southern part of these buildings functioned as a dairy well into the 20th century and the ventilator houses on the roof can be seen on some of the photographs. In the 1870s the northern of these buildings housed a byre with a slaughter house to the rear. Behind were drying greens and vegetable gardens.

To the north of the offices a house was built for the factor (estate manager). The lofty single storey building was given a crenelated top with Arabic merlons not dissimilar to those on the parish church, suggesting a date of around 1810 for its construction. The walls are built of random rubble including field clearance stones and re-used masonry from earlier buildings. One of these latter was a 16th century pistol loop (built into the wall just north of the main east door on the inside), presumably from Callendar House (DES 1989, 9). The main façade faced east and the door and windows were given prominent hoodmoulds, with a blank shield above the door. The harling has since been replaced by a cement render picked out to look like ashlar. Like the doocot of 1828, the roof was low pitched and hidden behind the parapet. The building was L-shaped in plan, with a rear wing from the north end.

The removal of earth from behind the original stable block to fill the hollow between it and the House in the late 1780s greatly enlarged the yard there. This was utilised for a complex of buildings that combined some of the functions of a home farm with those of a maintenance yard. Shortly after the completion of the [doocot](#) in 1828 a two-storey range was added to its west side, forming the north-west range of the courtyard. This used the break in slope and formed a terrace wall, with the upper floor of the new range opening onto the ground level to the north. Like the doocot it has backset margins, slightly more prominent, and a similar stringcourse. It also continued the theme of the stable block with key-blocked elliptical arches on the ground floor of the main south-facing facade. These were symmetrically disposed with a wide central arch flanked by two smaller ones on either side. The westernmost arch was only for the purposes of symmetry, and possessed a central door set within the arched frame. The upper floor has a Gothic style with eight wide lancet windows set between a pointed window at either end. The roof is piended. The retaining wall was continued south-eastward from the junction of the doocot and the new block around the back of the dairy.

Callendar Park - FLHS

Almost opposite the north-west range was a contemporary cart shed, having cast iron columns along the front and west side. Its roof has been replaced several times, most recently after a fire in 2012.



Illus 4.10: Plan of the Stables and Offices showing their Dates of Construction.

In the 1870s or 1880s a single-storey curving range of stables was inserted into the terrace to the south-east of the doocot. The convex south wall onto the courtyard has alternating stable doors and windows, the latter with cast iron latticework frames in an English cottage style. The slate roof slopes right onto the upper terrace next to the doocot, giving it an Arts and Crafts feel. The extra stabling seems to have been due to a greater interest in hunting and the new stables partly obscured the cart entrances in the north-west range. It was probably at this time that these entrances were made up with doorways along with more lattice framed windows.

The factor's house (NS 8969 7949) was also substantially extended to the north around this time, with a new porched entrance from a private drive. It was much later, c1920, that a single-storey extension was placed in the north-east angle and given a pointed crenelation along its east front to reflect the earlier ones to the south. In 1950 the house was converted into accommodation for estate workers. By 1980 the house was empty and in 1986 Seaton Place was extended to the east to form a new public entrance and a car park was placed under the trees to the east. In 1989 a Youth Training Scheme removed many internal features as part of a renovation, but the building was declared unsafe and the project abandoned.

The Doocot (SMR 13)³⁸:

This structure replaced an earlier larger building, probably a lectern style doocot of 17th century date, which had become dilapidated and which was demolished during the construction of the railway in the 1840s. It now stands (NS 8969 7949) behind a later low single-storeyed curved stable block. It is housed in a crenelated tower attached to a block with tall narrow first floor windows and pined roof. The tower measures some 21ft square. The lower part of the tower was used as kennels, but at second floor level some 16ft above the ground a moulded stringcourse marks the upper storey which contains 884 sandstone nest holes. The entrance holes for the birds face south and are seven in number. The kennels have three grilled horizontal windows on the north and south fronts and a series of interlocked vaults separate them from the floor above.



Illus 4.11:

The Doocot looking west from the Terrace:



The main façade is on the east and contains a central door at ground level for the kennels, above which is a similar door giving access to the doocot, and above that again a blank window. These apertures, and the quoins, have shallow backset margins. The low-pitched roof is covered by lead sheeting and is hidden behind the corbelled pointed battlements.

Illus 4.12: The Doocot Interior looking West

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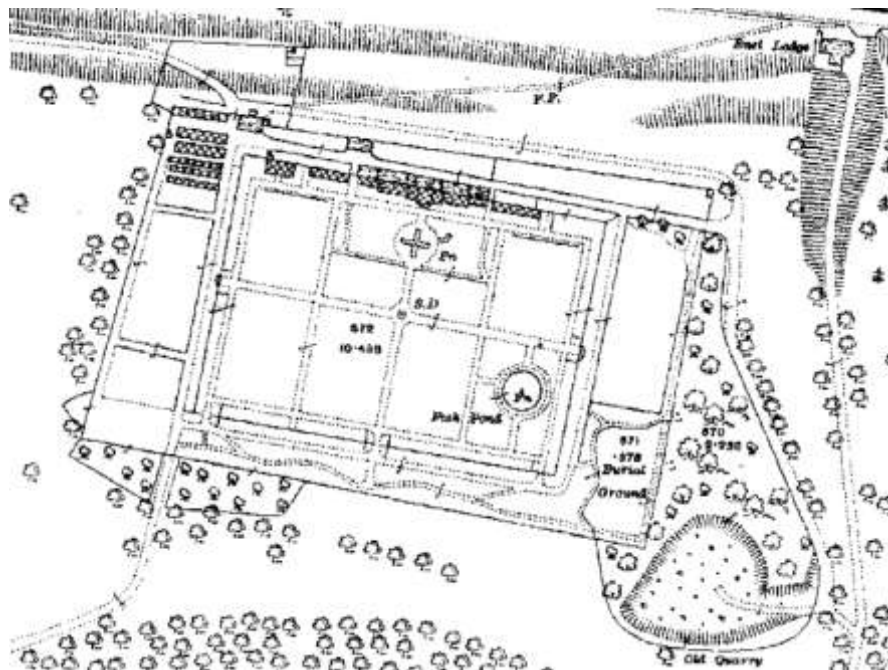
An account for the building of the doocot, dated December 1828, survives among the Forbes Papers (171/3098)²⁶. It is here quoted in full:

To Building Pigeon house per Offer	£155	-	-	
To Additional work on top Ditto	25	-	-	
				£18
				0
To 145 1/2 Days work of Masons Building wall at Pigon house and Building Conduits Causewaying hen Court and under Building walls in Woodyard and Building at Wighing Machine & ec at 2/8d per Day	19	8	-	
To 18 1/4 Days of a labourer at Ditto @ 1/8d per Day	1	16	5	
To 25 Carts of Ruble Stones to Ditto @ 1/ per Cart	1	5	-	
To Carriage of Ditto 25 Carts @ 1/6d per Cart	1	17	6	
To 14 Carts of flags to Ditto @ 2/ per Cart	1	8	-	
To Carriage of Ditto 14 Carts at 1/6 per Cart	1	1	-	
To 7 Carts of Lime to Dittos @ 9/ per Cart	3	3	-	
To 10 yards of Cop to wall at Pigon house at 3/ per yard	1	10	-	

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The Walled Garden (SMR 825)³⁸:

The new walled garden of 1786 was designed by Driver of London (Forbes Papers 246/2)²⁶ on the latest horticultural and leisure principals. “A large kitchen garden is making which contains about 7 Scotch acres, it is to be surrounded with a brick wall 14 feet high and to have hothouses, hot walls and green houses all in the first stile (246/1, 10 Feb 1786) ²⁶. It was constructed on the esker to the north-east of Callendar House, with the north wall almost on that of the Antonine Wall. Here the esker broadens out and presents only a slight declination to the south.



Illus 4.13: 3rd Edition OS Survey Plan of the Walled Garden.

The walled garden consisted of a double enclosure. The inner rectangular one, some 165m long west/east by 118m north-south was formed by a 14ft tall brick wall with sandstone quoins. It lay almost central to a trapezoidal outer enclosure with a tall stone wall. The inner walls took a huge quantity of bricks, whose manufacture had to be commissioned for the purpose. The foundation of the outer wall was laid using stone rooted out of the front parks as part of their improvement (282/10, 27 Sep 1787) ²⁶. The inner enclosure was formal with straight paths and intensively cultivated plots and greenhouses against the north wall. The outer enclosure was more natural in appearance with appropriate shrubs and trees and winding paths.



Illus 4.14: The Central Gate to the Inner Enclosure with Coade pines on the piers, looking South, c1920.

The inner enclosure had three gates in both the north and south walls. It was divided along its central axes by paths and by two further north/south paths giving eight rectangular plots. In the south-east plot was a water feature in the form of an oval pond. Around 1830 this was replaced by a stone-lined circular fish pond. At each end of the west/east path

seats were placed in pedimented alcoves set within the brick walls and framed by Doric pilasters, embellished by Coade vases (Forbes Papers a1085.1 for the alcove; 340/25, 24 Nov 1788; 340/27, 8 Dec 1788)²⁶. In 1788 a range of hothouses of 190 feet was begun – they formed the central feature along the north wall. These included a pinery. Around 1880 fountains were added – one in the centre of the fish pond, and the other on the terrace in front of these hothouses. The latter was as the intersection of four arms of a large rockery, forming a cross. A sundial was also placed in the centre of the walled garden.

Illus 4.15: The Hothouse on the inside of the North Wall, looking WNW, c1920.



The outer enclosure had three access points flanked by large stone piers supporting ball finials – one near the west end of the south wall, one near the north end of the east wall, and one adjacent to the head gardener's house near the north-west corner. They all survive, though that near the north-east corner was widened for the college and again for the business park. In 1866 a burial was placed in the south-east corner of the outer enclosure and by 1950 there were six small granite crosses and a couple of headstones in this cemetery. In 1964 the bodies were exhumed in advance of construction work and reinterred at Camelon

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Cemetery. The grave markers were moved into the enclosure at the mausoleum. Few can now be read.

1. THOMAS DOUGLAS/ WALLACE F.S.I., J.P./ FACTOR HERE FOR 45 YEARS/
DIED 1ST AUG 1945/ AGED 78 YEARS/ MARGARET/ MORTON/ HIS WIFE/ 19TH
APRIL 1949/ AGED 76 YEARS.
2. TO THE/ MEMORY/ OF/ WILLIAM FORBES/ WHO DIED/ 21ST JULY 1914/ AGED
81.
3. CAROLINE.McCALLUM/
FOR.26.YEARS.FAITHFUL.NURS
E./ DIED.JULY.16TH.1895/ AGED
71.
4. Edith Marion Borbry/ Died August
5th 1936.
5. Francis Henr- ----/ Died May 25th
1874/ Aged 5 Years/ "Suffer little
Children to come unto Me."
6. Rose Parbrs/ Died Jan^y 29 1866.



Illus 4.16: The Servants' Graveyard in the Walled Garden, c1920, looking SW.

The Head Gardener's house was added adjacent to the entrance at the north-west corner of the walled garden between 1818 and 1860. It is a single storey house with dormers in the roof. The most prominent features are the large sandstone columns flanking the main door. The west gable contains pigeon holes.

The Ice-House (SMR 60)³⁸:

Illus 4.17: The Ice-House looking South-East.



The ice-house stands prominently 108m north of the House it served (at NS 8997 7942). The tall sandstone frontage is topped by a pediment, below which the doorway faces west. This orientation is due to the wish to display the building as a landscaped feature of the park, and in its location it would have been just as easy to face it northwards. It is built into the side of a disused gravel quarry. The antechamber is 3.65m long and leads into the circular ice-chamber, 3.66m in diameter, with its domed roof. Ice-chamber and antechamber are built of brick. Originally the ice-pit was 3.65m deep from the floor of the antechamber, and given the gravel drift geology was presumably self-draining. The ice-chamber was filled with gravel and other loose material by Falkirk Council's Department of Amenity and Recreation in the early 1980s to bring it up to ground level for use as a goat house. The antechamber had a door at either end, plus a third about half way along. A small loch and ornamental canal lie 200m to the south and would have provided ample ice.

In September 1789 William Forbes received information on ice-houses elsewhere being, presumably, intent upon erecting one at Callendar. These plans were made in "great haste" (Forbes Papers 171/359/15)²⁶.

The Marriage Stone:

The Marriage Stone on the south side of the serpentine pond (NS 8927 7941) is of local sandstone and stands 1.28m tall above a rough base 0.22m thick. At the base it is 0.46m square, reducing to 0.37m where it is dressed. This then tapers over 1.22m to a width of 0.28m, above which chamfers on each face reduce it still further. On the south face are two square holes, probably to receive the end of an iron fence. These have been neatly filled with stone. The beech tree beside it was blown over in the gales of 2010 and a count of the tree rings suggests that it was around 160 years old at the time (1.3m in diameter), meaning that it was planted around 1850.



Illus 4.18: The initialled Standing Stone looking North-East.

The faces of the stone are covered with a series of inscriptions consisting of a set of initials – all ending in F for the Forbes family – followed by a date. The first inscription was that on the flat top, followed by the chamfered sides below it, and then the shaft itself. The latest appear to be those on the

north face and these are the clearest, this also being the sheltered side. The readings given below are not certain.

Top: W.F./L.A.F./ 11 NOV – [William Forbes & Louisa Antoneta Charteris, 1832]

South chamfer: A.F./ 1. MARCH '37

East chamfer: M.C.F./11. SEPT. '34

West chamfer: W.F. / 3. JULY 68 [William Forbes & Edith M Harvey, June 1868]

North chamfer: L.F.A.F./ 16. DEC. '25 [Lillian Mary Forbes, 1915]

West face: F.C.F./ 27. OCT. '40

North face: C.W.F./ 7. MARCH '89/ K.L.F./ 3. JUNE '45 [Charles William Forbes, September 1897]

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The Kennels (SMR 581)³⁸:

Situated a little east of the Glenbrae Lodge in the Callendar Policies (NS 8861 7911). It is a single storey building aligned with its roof ridge N/S, ending in a porch at the south. The walls are of coursed whinstone with dressed sandstone margins and a pedimented ashlar portico or porch. The skews are plain. The slate roof was replaced by corrugated steel in 2000, but has since been re-slated. Short stubby chimneys occur at either gable and are connected to flues in the east wall, designed to keep the chill off the dogs. The west wall contains four doors. To the west and east are dwarf walls supporting iron railing to create yards; internal railed divisions within the west yard formed separate exercise runs for the animals. The building is shown on the 1st edition OS and dates to around 1840, but the porch only appears on the 2nd edition and probably dates to c1880.



Illus 4.19:
The Kennels looking NE.

The Barrel Well (SMR1452)³⁸:



Illus 4.20: The Entrance to the Barrel Well looking South.

Situated a little below Hendry's Hill (NS 8879 7897), on the north side, this well is largely hidden from view by the vegetation growing on its barrel vault. The structure is built of brick with a stone lintel over the entrance bearing the date 1791.

That would be the date when William Forbes bought back the water rights from the Stentmasters; these had originally been granted in 1682 by Alexander Livingston for the town's water supply. Water trickling from the back of the chamber is collected in a trough and then channelled through a pipe down the hill. The steel cage bar door was added in the first decade of the 21st century by the Forestry Commission.

The Cascade Bridge (SMR 578)³⁸:

The bridge was designed in 1787 to provide an ornamental feature over the canalised East Burn. It lay on the minor estate road from the Shieldhill Lodge (NS 8935 7932), which runs alongside the canal in either direction imparting suitable views of it. It was also visible from the vicinity of the House. Its design has been variously attributed to Robert Adam and David Hamilton, but like the other park structures of this date is most likely to be by Edward Brazier.

The design is typical of the period with a simple segmental arch with backset margins, curved abutments, good quality sandstone copes and a plain inclined string course mirroring the contours of the ground. Five panelled demi-pilasters punctuate the Classical balustrade, which was of cast iron (RCAHMS 1963, 351). The dowel holes for the balustrade can still be seen, but the parapet was completely lost after 1963. The side walls of the bridge were made of poor quality random rubble, which was either harled and whitewashed or cement rendered and picked out in lines to represent ashlar. The latter survives, though it is obviously a late refurbishment. The soffit of the arch is of good quality purple brick, but below the springing point the walls are of coursed ashlar with horizontal brotching set within margins. These are now continued beyond the bridge by plain curving walls that retain the earth where formerly there was water. A concave concrete floor under the arch was probably put in when the current water pipe for the burn was inserted. In the 1980s tubular handrails were fitted.

The Cascade Bridge is so named because until c1830 the Cascade was located here, probably just to the east so that the full effect of the waterfall could be seen from the bridge. The Cascade was subsequently moved to the west.

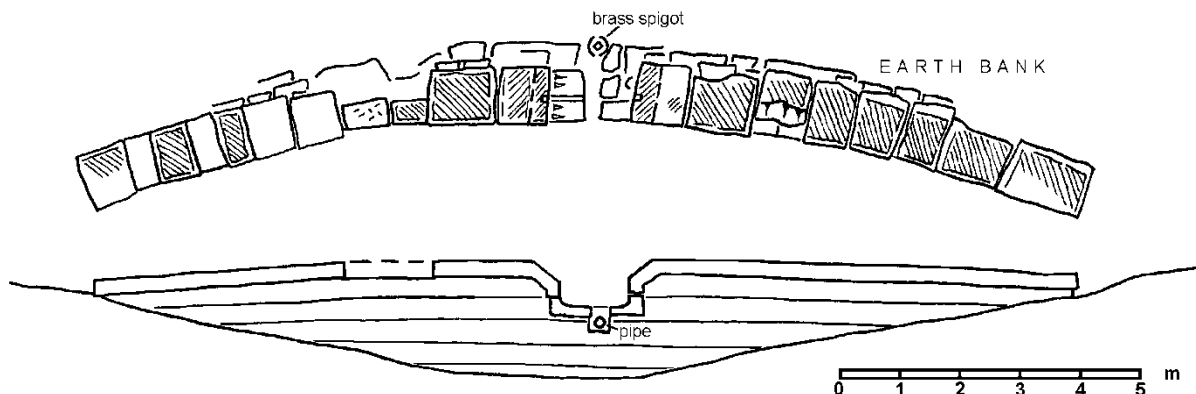


Illus 4.21: *The Cascade Bridge looking North-West with Eastburn Tower in the background.*

The Cascade:

A stone weir located at the west end of the ornamental canal in Callendar Park (NS 8922 7947) was constructed c1830 to replace one of 1787 beside the Cascade Bridge. It is 17m long and slightly convex to brace the pressure of the water in the serpentine pond behind it. The rough east face is covered by an earth bank, but the west face is dressed. The weir is capped by a 0.3m thick cope of large flat stones that have diagonal brotching on their upper faces. Five courses of horizontally V-channelled masonry are still visible on the west side. The stones at the north and south margins also have diagonal brotching, but the majority have rock-cut faces to provide a rustic appearance. In the centre of the structure is a gap of 1.2m for the sluice. Here the cope has a backset margin to mirror the chamfer of the top edge and contains a square slot to take the wooden planks or the frame of the sluice. At a later date a deeper channel has been cut into the centre to insert a cast iron pipe. A brass spigot on the east side may have operated a valve on the pipe. An inspection hatch a short distance to the west of the weir shows that the modern pipe takes the stream water under the whole structure.

The cope dips slightly at either end, and together with the wear pattern on it and the brotching on the west face, this shows that the water topped the weir at either end and in the central dip.



Illus 4.22: Plan and West Elevation of the Cascade.

The style of brotching suggests that the 1787 cascade near the bridge may have been dismantled and reassembled here, 190m to the north-west, in 1830. This would also explain the quality of the west face, which in its present location was not readily visible.

The Mausoleum (SMR 577)³⁸.

The Mausoleum for the Forbes family was erected in 1816 on slightly rising ground at the east end of Callendar Loch, 600m from the House (NS 9038 7898). Its towering form overtopped the trees making it a monument fit for an idealised classical landscape. Unfortunately trees planted at the time of its construction now obscure any distant views of it.

The mausoleum is in the form of a circular Doric temple 45ft tall. The heavily rusticated podium supports a cella and a peristyle of twelve fluted columns with a deep entablature under a ribbed stone paved roof. The stunted entrance porch lies on the north side and is contained entirely within the podium. Above the door a panel bears a Greek inscription which is a couplet from Lucian – ΘΝΗΤΑ ΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΘΝΗΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΙΓ'ΑΡΕΡΧΕΤΑΙ ΗΜΑΣΗΝ ΔΕ ΜΗ ΑΛΛ ΗΜΕΙΣ ΑΤΤΑ ΠΑΡΕΡΧΟΜΕΘΑ. It can be translated as “Mortals; possessions are mortal, and all things pass us by; if not, at any rate we pass them by”.

Inside the building three tiers of rectangular alcoves are arranged in the thickness of the podium wall, alternating between perpendicular and tangential to the circular interior, to receive the bodies of the deceased – 21 in all. The first William Forbes of Callendar was placed here in 1816, the year after his death. In 1859 it was the turn of Rose O'Hara, the Irish wife of William Forbes the second. Other occupants include Colonel Charles Forbes (1948) and William Dudley Forbes (1977). Large vents are placed high in the cella walls and the top is domed to support the roof slabs.

The design was commissioned by William Forbes' trustees from the London based Scottish architect Archibald Elliot (1760-1823). The estimated cost was £2,370, most of which was for the Brighton sandstone of which it is made and for the work of the local mason, James Hendrie. The latter's initials are carved on the roof, out of sight.



4.23: *The Mausoleum looking NE.*

The building is set within a circular enclosure some 96m in diameter surrounded by a substantial stone wall – its symmetry undisturbed by the rapidly changing ground contours. Outside of this is a shallow ditch. In the east this is crossed by a causeway leading to an entrance flanked by tall square pillars and closed by a cast iron gate furnished with an urn monument. In 1964 the grave monuments to the estate servants were transferred from the walled garden into this enclosure, a little west of the mausoleum, in advance of the construction of the college of education. The enclosure still belongs to the Forbes family, but is frequently visited by the public, including a number of vandals. Graffiti abounds on the walls. In 1993 the metal mausoleum door was

replaced by a concrete barrier. The servant's stones have been smashed to pieces.

The Fibonacci Spiral:

Designed by the landscape designer Jim Buchanan and the Public Art Agency (Independent Public Art) the spiral is made of curved and embossed steel fingers that take the place of standing stones in a perfect spiral. Such spirals can be found in nature – in shells, pine cones, sunflower seed heads and so. The 12th century mathematician Fibonacci worked out the form of this spiral. The metal plates, 126 in all, were made by blacksmith Adam Booth, and one of the central ones carries his trademark fish signature. The glass tiles at the centre of the spiral were by Keiko Mukaide. The sculptural form was created by Tom Littlewood from the designs and the original retaining wall around the south side of the dairy was incorporated into the installation and forms a strand of the spiral.

Prior to its construction in 1999/2000 the area was the main entrance into the maintenance yard (NS 8972 7947). Behind the cast iron gate is still in place, flanked by substantial stone piers.



Illus 4.24: *The Centre of the Spiral looking South-East.*

The Lodges:

Shieldhill or Glenbrae Lodge (SMR 575)³⁸

Situated part way up the Glen Brae by the West Gates (NS 8852 7908) this lodge has had various names including Shieldhill, West and South Lodge. This and two other lodges were designed by E B Brazier in 1788 for William Forbes - it is the only one left. It is a single storey stone dwelling with a slate roof having canted ends and broad eaves. It is aligned W/E, being some 19m in length. As both gables have chamfered corners the original lodge had a lozenge-shaped plan. There are four tapering octagonal chimney stacks with moulded tops set along the ridge line.



Illus 4.25: The Shieldhill Lodge looking North-East.

The west gable fronts on to the brae and contains a 2-light blank window, with a keyhole slit in the south-west chamfer. It is made with stugged ashlar with broader bands forming a shallow plinth. The rubble park wall joins the north side of the lodge flush with the gable, thus hiding the north-west chamfer. The south-west chamfer is continued to the south-east to meet a substantial panelled gate pier and houses another keyhole slit. This geometry is mirrored on the south side of the gateway where a plain wall angles out from the south pier back to the park wall, the junction being marked by a shallow pilaster. Due to the hill slope the top of this section of wall has a graceful Dutch curve. The south gate pier possesses a large vertical slot on a north/south axis, presumably to allow a sliding gate to run through it. The south front has another keyhole slit at its west end, then a sash and case window, two doors and another window. This slit was evidently designed to be visible to the public and it would seem that the park wall was originally intended to join the lodge between it and the window. Indeed the whole gable beyond this point was supposed to project beyond the park wall, but due to a delay in receiving the plans the park wall was built against the road and the layout subsequently modified.

A north extension, with a smaller but matching gable projecting eastward, was added some time before 1860 (1st ed OS), probably in 1835.

Falkirk Lodge (SMR 1129) [38](#)

This lodge was located at the Cleddans on Callendar Road (NS 8940 7973). The original lodges lay a little to the south on the line of the old road and were designed by E B Brazier. These small structures were ornamented with sphinxes and one lay



on either side of the gate on the line of the park wall. In 1835 the road was moved further to the north and shortly thereafter a new lodge was constructed and the old ones demolished. The new lodge was a single storey stone building with slated roof and tall tapering chimney stacks. Stone gables faced north and west onto the main road and the estate drive respectively, the former possessing a blank shield. At the north-west corner was a projecting pilastered porch with a panelled side wall, this acted as the reception area. A large, slightly advanced, mullioned window faced the drive from the living room. The bedrooms were at the rear. It was extended to the east c1890 and demolished c1970.

Illus 4.26: Plan and North Elevation of the Main or Falkirk Lodge as rebuilt in 1835.

The Summerhouse:

The rustic timber summerhouse appears to have been an original feature of the arboretum. It stood 200m south of the House on the axial southern avenue (NS 8978 7913). It was octagonal, 17ft in diameter, with an open projecting porch facing the House. The exterior was relatively plain. The wide eaves terminated in fretwork boards with globular pendants. The porch was supported on two trimmed tapering tree trunks. A window occurred in every alternate side, other than the door. Inside the panels in between these were lined with twigs arranged to form geometric patterns – lozenge and quatrefoil. The building was set on a stone paved platform with broad steps in front leading to a forecourt where paths joined from the west and east. Behind the summerhouse much narrower steps led to a winding path that veered off the straight line taken by the northern path down the hill.

The First Battle of Falkirk Monument (SMR 1492)³⁸:

This monument to William Wallace and the men of Scotland who fought at the Battle of Falkirk in July 1298 was erected in 2007. It stands near the park entrance from Estate Avenue (NS 8941 7945).



Illus 4.27: *The Unveiling of the Battle of Falkirk Monument in 2000.*

The Monument takes the form of a 1.7m tall concrete cylinder clad with small granite setts mounted on a square base measuring 1.8m across and 0.30m high. A stringcourse occurs just below the slightly domed top. On the south-west side a plain rectangular sandstone panel bears the following inscription: "SCOTS WHA HAE/ WI WALLACE BLED/ This Monument is Dedicated/ To the Thousands of Scottish Patriots/ Who fought & Died/ Under The Command Of/ SIR WILLIAM WALLACE/ At/ The First Battle Of Falkirk/ 22nd Of July 1298 A.D./ 'They came to the ring/ and/ danced their best'/ *Bas Agus Buaidh*".

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