



Designation Consultation

This designation consultation is open for comment until 10 July 2024.

Give us your comments

Historic Environment Scotland consult with those who are directly affected by designation proposals – including owners, occupiers and tenants – and with the planning authority.

We also welcome comments from interested persons or groups.

When we consult about a designation case we will have carried out research and set this out in a **report of handling**. This report is an assessment produced for consultation and it sets out our view, including a proposed decision. The assessment is not intended to be a definitive account or description of the site or place. We consider the comments received before we take a final decision.

We consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place.
- Whether sites or places meet the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

You can find more guidance on providing comments and how we handle your information on our [website](#).

Information on how we treat your personal data is available on our [Privacy Notice](#).

How to make a comment

Please send your comments to designationconsultations@hes.scot and provide us with the case reference. You can also make comments through our [portal](#) by clicking on the link 'email your comments about this case'.

If you are the owner, occupier or tenant or the planning authority please email us at: designations@hes.scot.

If you are unable to email your comments please phone us on 0131 668 8914.



Report of Handling Case information

Case ID	300060192
Name of Site	Airthrey Castle
Local Authority	Stirling
National Grid Reference	NS 80973 96564
Designation Type	Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
Designation No.	GDL00010
Case Type	Amendment
Received/Start Date	11/08/2022
Decision Date	Pending

1. Decision

Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the inventory name Update the text of the inventory record
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The garden and designed landscape was first included on the inventory on 01/07/1987. Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that it meets the criterion of national importance.

The proposed decision is to amend the inventory name to **University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle)** and update the text of the inventory record.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This site was included on the inventory on 01/07/1987.

The following designations are located within the inventory boundary:

Listed buildings		
Reference	Designation name	Category
LB51327	Stirling University Campus, Pathfoot Building	A



LB51322	Stirling University Campus, 1 Airthrey Castle Yard, Principal's House	A
LB51325	Stirling University Campus, 6 and 7 Airthrey Castle Yard, Nuffield Staff Houses	B
LB51324	Stirling University Campus, 4 and 5 Airthrey Castle Yard, Nuffield Staff Houses	B
LB51323	Stirling University Campus, 2 and 3 Airthrey Castle Yard, Nuffield Staff Houses, including Boundary Walls	B
LB10412	Stirling University Campus, Airthrey Castle	B
LB10428	Stirling University Campus, East Lodge, including Gatepiers and Boundary Walls	B
LB10453	Stirling University Campus, Garden Cottage	C
LB51326	Stirling University Campus, Bridge Over Airthrey Loch	C

Scheduled Monuments

Reference	Designation name
SM1730	Airthrey Castle, standing stone 280m SE of

2.2 Development Proposals

There are a number of current planning application affecting the campus of the University of Stirling (see Stirling Council planning portal for details - <https://pabs.stirling.gov.uk/online-applications/>). However, as this proposed amendment does not include any boundary changes, it will not have a significant impact on current applications.

See Section 3.3 Policy Considerations.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

We received a nomination to include the University of Stirling campus in the Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past Project. This project began in 2021, and you can find out about it on the [HES website](#). It is an initiative to identify, record, and celebrate Scotland's modern gardens and designed landscapes.

The reasons given for the nomination was:

- The whole campus is a significant example of modernist buildings designed in harmony with a 250-year-old picturesque landscape



- [It] is an outstanding example of considered 1960's site planning within an important and sensitive landscape context, unique in Scotland
- The architects' master planning approach to both the natural and the designed landscape of the original Airthrey estate was highly sensitive for the period.
- The inherent flexibility of both the buildings and the overall layout has allowed the buildings to be adapted and extended for modern use with minimal disruption to the surrounding landscape setting. Later buildings introduced into the campus have generally been well sited and have not undermined the overall integrity of the original designed landscape.
- Despite the inherent flaws in the original landscape design approach, the site remains one of the finest expressions of modernist campus planning of the 20th century anywhere.

Following this nomination, we decided to review the designed landscape for its interest for national designation for the inventory of gardens and designed landscapes.

As part of our research and data-gathering, we visited the site on 11/08/2022 and 03/03/2023.

3.2 Assessment of national importance

We have found the garden and designed landscape to meet the criterion of national importance.

We carried out an assessment using the selection guidance to decide whether a site is of national importance (see **Annex A**).

We consider the degree to which a site survives when assessing it for the inventory. A garden and designed landscape must have enough integrity to be included on the inventory. By integrity we mean the site's wholeness and/or coherence.

In this case, **University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle)** has sufficient integrity to be included on the inventory.

The designation selection guidance for gardens and designed landscapes are published in the Historic Environment Scotland Designation Policy and Selection Guidance 2019, Annex 3, pp 14-16

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

3.3 Policy considerations



We consider the individual circumstances of each case. In deciding whether to designate a site or place or amend an existing designation while there are ongoing development proposals, we will consider:

- the implications of designation on development proposals
- the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the site or place
- the extent to which plans have been developed for the site or place – where these are particularly advanced, we will not normally list or schedule.

Our approach with the inventories of gardens and designed landscapes and historic battlefields may differ from listing and scheduling because of the typically large-scale nature of these landscapes, and their status in the planning system. There is a degree of judgment to be applied when we decide whether to proceed with a designation proposal when there are development proposals for the site or its vicinity.

If, following research and consultation, we conclude that the effects of proposed development on the overall cultural significance of the site or place are minimal and/or designation would be unlikely to impact on the planning process, then we may proceed to a designation. If, on the other hand, we conclude that the development could have a significant impact on what is important about the site, or that a designation would affect the planning process, then we would not normally proceed to a designation. These principles extend to reviewing existing inventory entries, for example where we are considering boundary changes.

There are a number of current planning application affecting the campus of the University of Stirling (see Stirling Council planning portal for details - <https://pabs.stirling.gov.uk/online-applications/>). However, as this proposed amendment does not include any boundary changes, it will not have a significant impact on current applications.

Further information about development proposals and designation is found in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, pp. 7-8
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 29/05/2024 to 10/07/2024.



We have consulted with the owners/occupier/tenants and the planning authority.

We publish the consultation report of handling on our portal and on our consultation website at <https://haveyoursay.historicenvironment.scot/> so that other interested parties can give us their views.

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ANNEX A

Assessment of national importance for inclusion on the Inventory of gardens and designed landscapes

University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle)

1. Summary

1.1 Type of site: Modern university campus founded in 1964 within an 18th–19th century picturesque landscape

1.2 Main phases of landscape development:
1786–1889, 1964–1975, 1980–2008, 2009–present.

2. Location and setting

University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle) is located at the foot of the Ochil Hills. It is located between Bridge of Allan (northwest) and Causewayhead (southeast).

The inventory boundary encompasses 154 hectares including an extensive university campus which is situated around the north, south and west of an artificial loch. There are multiple teaching spaces within the Pathfoot and Cottrell buildings, on-site student accommodation, the Macrobert Arts Centre and a Sports Centre with outdoor facilities including sports' pitches and tennis courts.

The core of the campus sits within a bowl, the lowest point of which has a loch, created as part of the 18th – 19th century picturesque landscape. This topography was an important contributing factor in deciding where to position the university buildings.

To the east of the loch is Airthrey Castle and its ancillaries - an ice house, walled garden, Garden Cottage and yard. There is open parkland to the south of Airthrey Castle which was landscaped as a golf course. Near the eastern boundary there is further student accommodation.

The designed landscape is bounded by an estate wall to the west, south and east. The boundary to the north is defined by the northern edge of Hermitage Wood.

3. Site history



Origins

The area has been a focus of human activity since prehistory. Evidence for this survives in the form of two large standing stones located in the east of the campus (scheduled monument SM1730) and a standing stone to the northeast of the Pathfoot building (Canmore ID 47166). Three further standing stones, which may be medieval boundary markers lie to the east-southeast of Airthrey Castle.

The Airthrey estate dates to at least the mid-12th century and was recorded in a charter of King David I as 'Atherai.' The first recorded building was a manor house destroyed by fire by the Marquis of Argyll in 1645 and later rebuilt. This rebuild may be the structure marked 'Ethra' on John Adair's map dating to 1681. No known trace of this building now survives.

In the early 18th century the estate was acquired by John Dundas and his son Ralph, who began planting trees. By the mid-18th century, John Dundas had established a kitchen garden, perhaps the origin of the walled garden, and had constructed a modest house. William Roy depicts the estate between 1747–55 and, though wrongly identified as 'Menstrie', the map shows a large rectangle of planted woodland extending north onto the hillside. This may be the beginning of Hermitage Wood. A central avenue leads towards a house from the south. This house sits within a small area of open ground. Opposite this a further avenue extends to the north.

In 1759, the East India Company Captain, landowner and politician, Robert Haldane of Plean (1705–1767) purchased the Airthrey Estate and spent £2000 developing the parkland from 1759–67 (Stacy 2017: 58). He redirected the road which ran through the estate connecting the former villages of Pathfoot and Logie Burn, leading to protests and a court case. Work on the estate continued with his heir and great nephew of the same name – Robert Haldane (1764–1842).

The Picturesque landscape from 1786

The laying out of the much-celebrated picturesque landscape began in 1786 with Robert Haldane (1764–1842). Aged 22, he settled at Airthrey following service in the Navy, a Grand Tour and marriage. He instigated building and landscape works that created much of the framework of the present landscape. Although there is no conclusive evidence for his involvement, the prolific landscape designer, Thomas White (Senior) may have had a hand in the design, and some parts of the layout are characteristic of his work (Turnbull 1990: 97, 534; Simpson and Brown 2009: 233).

In the parkland, individual mature trees were moved into selected locations within a parkland design and by 1787 work had begun on digging the large serpentine loch at the heart of the estate. In 1791 Haldane commissioned Robert Adam to design a new main residence – Airthrey Castle.

New 'pleasure grounds' to the north of the castle with a summerhouse and an elaborate grotto, known as The Hermiage were also set out. Pleasure grounds



frequently included formal gardens comprising flowerbeds and lawns with areas for sport and recreation alongside contrasting areas of perceived 'wild' such as woodland threaded with walks and viewpoints. The framed windows of the Summer House would have provided the viewer with a literal picturesque perspective across the designed landscape. The Hermitage was built to imitate that described in a mid-18th century ballad 'The Hermit' written by Oliver Goldsmith. The walls were originally decorated with lines of text from this work (Rogers 1853, 20-21).

Robert Haldane sold the estate in 1798, going on to become a pivotal figure in Scottish evangelism. The new owner was the army officer and colonial administrator, Robert Abercromby (c.1740–1827). Abercromby continued works on the estate, including new east and west lodges by William Stirling in 1809, the demolition and removal of the old village of Logie Burn, and replacing a road through the grounds with a turnpike road to the south.

The design was highly fashionable and continued to be held in high regard into the mid-19th century. Reverend Charles Rogers describes the view from Hermitage wood as follows;

“prospects rarely exceeded even in the most celebrated landscapes. The summerhouse...directly looking over the park of Airthrey, affords a view which can only be represented, in the grandeur of its poetry, by the pencil of the artist.” (Rogers 1853, 19).

Airthrey remained in the Abercromby family until 1889, when Donald Graham (1844-1901) bought the estate. As the landscape matured more formal Victorian planting was introduced around the castle. Further changes under Graham's ownership included an extension to Airthrey Castle, a new arboretum, a boathouse at the loch's edge and the enlargement and planting of its island.

The designed landscape at Airthrey changed little in the following decades. Notable events included the creation of the emergency maternity hospital at Airthrey Castle during the Second World War (1939-1945). In 1947 this hospital was transferred to the NHS and Stirling County Council purchased 414 acres, including the castle and policies. In 1952, a nurses' accommodation block and conservatory were added to the castle.

The University of Stirling from 1964

The picturesque quality of the designed landscape at Airthrey was one of the key factors for the selection of the site for Scotland's fifth university: The University of Stirling. Founded in 1964 the university was the only 'New University' to be built in Scotland and was part of the wider government agenda to develop and expand tertiary education near small urban centres across the United Kingdom. Stirling was chosen along with Sussex, Warwick, Kent, York, Essex, Lancaster, East Anglia, all of which were set in parkland.



Among the criteria for selecting a site was that it must have an area of at least 100 acres. With over double this area, Airthrey more than met this requirement. Its modern design and construction focusing on steel and glass would define it as a 'plate glass' university. It is representative of a move away from the 'red brick' university designs of previous decades. The picturesque, designed landscape has been described as "probably the finest landscape setting for a new university in Britain." (Filor 1992, 95).

In 1966, Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners produced a development plan for the University. This was influenced by landscape architect, Edmund Hillard's Site Analysis Report which emphasised the importance of the earlier designed landscape. As a result, the plan took key features such as the loch, woodland and natural slopes and embedded the university buildings within the landscape.

A significant contribution to the landscape was made by a number of post-war Modernist buildings built for the University of Stirling and which respond to the parkland setting. The Pathfoot building exploits its natural setting with a discreet form and carefully controlled internal and external vistas, while the bridge over the Airthrey Loch cuts a bold straight line across the natural form of the loch.

Between 1969–1973 important university buildings were built and opened including: the Principal's House and 2-7 Airthrey Castle Stables Yard, the Library, Gannochy Trust pavilion footbridge, link bridge, the student residences, Andrew Stewart Hall, H H Donnelly House and Fraser of Allander House, the Cottrell Building (originally known as T70), Macrobert Arts Centre, Robbins Centre, Studies Building and Gannochy Sports Centre.

The economic downturn of the mid 1970's meant that plans for the 'Phase 3' expansion of the eastern campus were greatly reduced. The sports hall of the Gannochy Sports Centre was completed in 1980 along with the golf course to the south of Airthrey Castle. Development moved towards further student accommodation to secure other sources of income. Ten chalets were constructed at Pendriech Way by 1981 (with a further 23 chalets added at Spittal Hill by 1990). In 1983, Wang Laboratories purchased around 13 hectares of land where it constructed a manufacturing facility. Other additions include Stirling University Innovation Park (completed 1986) and the Stirling Management Centre (completed 1988, extended 1994).

Between 1991 to 2008 there were several further changes including the opening of the Gannochy Tennis Centre (1991), completion of Alexander Court student accommodation (1992), extension of the Stirling Management Centre (1994), construction of the R G Bomont Building and University Court Building (1998) and the opening of the Golf Centre, Sports Pavilion and addition of driving ranges (2001-2002). In 2002 the Macrobert Arts Centre was refurbished and extended. In 2002 the International Council on Monuments and Sites selected the University of Stirling and the designed landscape of Airthrey estate as one of the UK's top 20 heritage sites of



the 20th century. In 2003 the Colin Bell building was opened, followed by the Craig Gowans football Centre in 2008.

4. Landscape components

Architectural features:

The picturesque designed landscape was created to provide a setting for **Airthrey Castle** (LB10412), a D-plan castellated mansion house located in the eastern half of the designed landscape. It was designed by Robert Adam, 1790-91 for owner Robert Haldane (1764–1842). Haldane tried to reduce costs by contracting a mason for the building work and Adam retired from the commission. The north face was remodelled by David Thomson between 1890–91.

There is an **east lodge** (LB10428) designed by William Stirling (Senior) in 1809 and an original gatepier has been incorporated into the ‘Garden of Time.’

To the north-northeast of Airthrey Castle is an **ice house**, and to the northeast a **walled garden** and **garden cottage** (LB10453). To the northeast is Airthrey Castle yard with the remains of the 19th dwellings and barns – evidence for the utilitarian aspects of the former estate.

Late 18th-century buildings surviving in the pleasure grounds include the **Summer House** and a grotto (The **Hermitage**) within Hermitage Wood.

The east of the campus has several buildings of architectural significance which comprise the core of the ‘plate glass’ University of Stirling. The **Pathfoot Building** (LB51327), opened in 1967, has been recognized with a Civic Trust Award, RIBA Award and as a key monument of the modern movement in Scotland for Scotland. To the north of the loch is **student accommodation** and the **bridge over Airthrey Loch** (LB51326) completed in 1970 and providing a key visual and physical link between the central area of the campus and the residences on the north bank. To the south of the loch are the **Cottrell building** and the **Macrobert Art Centre** opened between 1970–1972.

To the west is an extensive sports facility. Further east at the edge of Hermitage Wood set on a steep crag to the northeast of Airthrey Castle are **the Principal’s House** (LB51322) and further staff accommodation (LB51325, LB51324 and LB51323) completed in 1969.

Drives and approaches

The main entrance to the university campus is located on the southwestern boundary. Dating to the early 1960s, this replaced the original entrance to the picturesque landscape which had approached Airthrey Castle by following the north



side of the loch. The West Lodge was demolished in the process of widening the entrance.

Paths and walks

The university campus has an extensive path network which connects the university buildings to key scenic elements of the designed landscape such as the loch and Hermitage Wood (See also under 'Woodland'). The loch is surrounded by a 2.5km circular path. The path network through Hermitage Wood closely follows the layout as shown on the six-inch 1st Edition Ordnance Survey surveyed in 1861.

Parkland

There is one main surviving area of parkland from the former picturesque landscape design. This is located to the south of Airthrey Castle. From the 1980's to the early 21st century this area was used as a 9-hole golf course, and there has been some subsequent tree-planting. In the 2020s, this area is managed as open grassland extending to the main elevation of Airthrey Castle, which reflects the intentions of the original picturesque design (2023).

From the late 18th century, most of the designed landscape was parkland with open areas of grass interspersed with single mature broadleaved trees. The Gardeners' Magazine of 1842 describes Airthrey Castle as having a 'beautiful, varied park with a large artificial lake.' (Loudon 1842, 593).

Most of this parkland survived until the late 1960's and the establishment of the University of Stirling. Some mature specimens of oak, beech and lime were retained. This was a deliberate design choice by the landscape architects following Hillard's Site Analysis Report, which recognised the importance of preserving features of the earlier picturesque landscape (see under Site History). Retaining mature specimen trees, along with the mass introduction of young trees and shrubs, was used to create the impression of a mature planting scheme.

Further buildings were introduced into former parkland areas between the 1970's and 1990s (including Wang Laboratories manufacturing facility, the innovation park and Alexander Court student accommodation to the east).

Avenues and vistas

Set within Hermitage Wood are two structures, a grotto (the Hermitage) and the Summer House. An important key function of which was to view the Airthrey estate and surrounding countryside. The intended picturesque vistas from the Summer House, framed by three arched windows are now mostly obscured by tree growth.

Woodland



There is significant woodland cover within University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), the majority of which has been deliberately introduced and is defined as Long Established Woodland of Plantation Origin by the Ancient Woodland inventory. However, a small proportion of Ancient Woodland (AW) survives in the east of Hermitage wood – this is an area that has been continuously wooded since 1750. Located at the heart of the campus are two ancient trees – a sweet chestnut and a willow as identified by the Ancient Tree inventory. Spread across the campus are at least 30 veteran trees and 22 notable trees – trees which stand out in their natural environment.

Hermitage Wood covers the northern half of the designed landscape and comprises 31 hectares of mainly mixed deciduous woodland and Scots Pine planted in the 18th century. In the earlier 19th century, Loudoun believed that the structure of the estate woodlands had been designed with reference to the work of the painter Alexander Nasmyth (1826: 1091).

In the present landscape, Hermitage Wood provides the setting for a well-established path network, the remains of The Hermitage and the Summer House - their entrances marked by yew trees. The woodland canopy also provides visual contrast to the University Buildings.

In the south-southeast of the campus is a small area of woodland that connects to Abbey Craig. Further areas of long-established woodland are located at the extreme east of the campus and the southwest of the campus at Spittal Hill.

Water Features

At the heart of the designed landscape is the artificial loch. Dug out in the late 18th century for Robert Haldane, 3rd of Airthrey, this large body of water is orientated east-west with an informal serpentine shape designed to imitate a natural feature. In the late 19th century Donald Graham commissioned the construction of a footbridge over the loch, a pier and a boathouse. The footbridge was replaced in 1970 with a new bridge of reinforced concrete by Robert Matthew Johnson-Marshall and Partners.

The loch has a surface area of approximately 933 acres and is fed from the northwest by a tributary of the Forglen. To the southeast a sluice and overflow control the water level. At the southeastern end is an island, possibly enlarged in the 19th century. The loch is almost entirely surrounded with broadleaf planting with breaks to the north and south which allow views across to the Macrobert Arts Centre from the student accommodation. There are extensive views of the loch from the 1970 bridge (LB51326) and the 2.5km path which encircles it.

There is a separate small feature known as the Macrobert pond. This was once part of the larger loch and was altered as part of works to provide service access to the Macrobert Arts centre. Other water features include the small waterfall and marble spring to the north of Airthrey Castle.



The Gardens

To the west of Airthrey Castle is a collection of rhododendron and azalea specimens comprising the George Forrest Walk. This was established in 1973 with specimens donated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh and including varieties collected by the Scottish botanist, George Forrest (1873–1932).

The 'Garden of Time' is located to the east of Airthrey Castle. This was established by Anthony, Lord Cochrane of Cults in the 1990s originally as a memorial garden to commemorate gardeners globally. Redeveloped in 2017, it contains a pond, specimen trees, floral meadows and sculptures. The commemoration of individuals remains a key part of its intended function.

Walled Garden

The walled garden to the northeast of Airthrey Castle has been consistently used as such since its creation. It is walled to the north, west and east and contains two buildings – Ivy Cottage and Garden Cottage. There are iron railings to the south. The wall is a composite of a rubble-built exterior with brick repairs and a brick interior. The interior of the north wall bears evidence of being painted and plastered. Towards the northeast corner is a door with a stone lintel and quoining.

The walled garden may have its origins in a kitchen garden associated with a small house lived in by Robert Dundas in 1747. In 1827, the estate factor Andrew Hutton describes an old orchard which is thought to refer to the walled garden. The walled garden or 'kitchen-garden' was described in 1842 by the *Gardeners' Magazine* as 'perfect, as regards culture and neatness, and the abundance and fine quality of the fruit.' (Loudon 1842, 593). The 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (surveyed 1860) shows trees organised in orderly rows around rectangular areas of open ground surrounded by paths and five glasshouses.

In the early 21st century the garden retains little of its earlier planting scheme but still contains several later 20th century greenhouses. Part of the garden has been converted into the Stirling Students' Union Community Garden with a focus on growing vegetables and sustainability.

Arboretum

To the north of Airthrey Castle is an arboretum, established in 1889 and planted primarily with conifers and yews. This is part of the Victorian planting scheme and has subsequently been added to with magnolias and rhododendrons.

5. Importance of site



5.1 Statement of national importance

University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle) has outstanding artistic and historic interest as a later 20th century campus landscape designed as part of the UK wave of New Universities embedded within an 18th – 19th century picturesque landscape, with loch, parkland and woodland. It has outstanding architectural interest for its collection of buildings and structures from both these periods, including a range of innovative Modernist buildings designed to respond to the parkland setting.

The statement of national importance has been informed by the following assessment of cultural significance.

5.2 Artistic interest

Level of interest: Outstanding

- The framework of Airthrey Castle's 18th-19th century picturesque landscape remains evident. The design was well regarded in published accounts of the 19th century, and in more recent appraisals of the modern university landscape (eg. Filor 1992: 95).
- The picturesque qualities of the designed landscape at Airthrey was one of the key contributing factors for the selection of the site for Scotland's fifth University.
- Of particular interest is the contribution to the landscape made by a number of post-war Modernist buildings built for the University of Stirling. These are part of a planned campus layout, intentionally responsive to parkland landscape setting.

5.3 Historical interest

Level of interest: High

- The Airthrey estate is first recorded in the 12th century and there are a range of historical sources available which help us understand the development of the picturesque landscape and the creation of the university campus over time. These include historic mapping, contemporary descriptions, photographs, development plans and archival material.
- It is the only example of a 'New University' to be built in Scotland, representative of the wider government agenda to develop and expand tertiary education near small urban centres across the UK, and to exploit parkland settings for a campus environment.
- The University of Stirling archives hold a significant selection of material relating to the construction of the university and alterations to the grounds such as the University of Stirling Interim Development Plan 1966, University of Stirling Development Report 1968, University of Stirling Phase 3 Development Plan 1973, a plan of the 'Approved Woodland Scheme' and a substantial



collection of documents and publications relating to the Airthrey Gardens Group.

5.4 Horticultural interest

Level of interest: High

- The designed landscape contains a good collection of mature and veteran specimen broadleaf trees which may date to the establishment of the picturesque designed landscape, and which have been identified and logged on the Ancient Tree inventory.
- The arboretum comprises a range of mature conifers including sequoias and monkey puzzle. There are also some similar specimens on the loch island.

5.5 Architectural interest

Level of interest: Outstanding

- The designed landscape contains many buildings recognised for their special architectural and historic interest, including earlier structures relating to the picturesque landscape of Airthrey Castle, and post-war Modernist buildings built for the University of Stirling.
- The designs and location of key buildings at the University of Stirling, such as the Pathfoot Building, were directly influenced by the earlier picturesque landscape, located around the artificial loch and with low horizontal lines set into the rising contours around the artificial loch.
- The Principal's House and other staff accommodation located around Airthrey Castle Yard are an important example of a group of post-War Modernist houses by one of Scotland's most important practices of this period, Morris and Steedman, who were leaders in avant-garde house design.

5.6 Archaeological interest

Level of interest: High

- The inventory landscape contains two prehistoric standing stones, including the scheduled monument - Airthrey Castle, standing stone 280m SE of (SM1730) and a further standing stone (Canmore ID 47166), and three further standing stones of possible medieval date (Canmore ID 47114)
- The lands associated with Airthrey Castle are first recorded in the mid-12th century and a structure marked 'Ethra' on John Adair's map dating to the 1680's may represent a tower house. As with many estate landscapes, there is potential for future archaeological survey or research to reveal more information about the development and character of the landscape over time.

5.7 Scenic interest



Level of interest: High

- The designed landscape is visible from surrounding elevated positions, and notably from Abbey Craig and the Wallace Monument to the south. It has scenic interest for its physical extent, combination of landscape elements (Modernist buildings, the loch and woodland), and for the overall contrast with adjacent suburban and agricultural landscapes at the periphery of Stirling and Bridge of Allan.
- To the north, Hermitage Wood is a substantial area of woodland that provides an important scenic component of the landscape.

5.8 Nature conservation interest

Level of interest: High

- The designed landscape provides a variety of habitats for wildlife and plant species, in particular the loch which is a non-statutory Wild Life Site, and Hermitage Wood.
- Sustainable practices to encourage biodiversity such as the reduction in grass mowing and retaining fallen trees and undergrowth within Hermitage Wood have also been introduced.

6. References

Historic Environment Scotland <https://canmore.org.uk/site/375881/stirling-university>

Other reference numbers: 254547; 47166; 47157; 254503; 158651; 223787; 47151; 375881; 350522; 375881; 270149; 47115; 4714; 159687; 320513; 289148; 47114; 307826; 47133; 238941; 350505; 350506; 350507; 332177; 317247; 221710; 221709 [accessed on 25/09/2023].

Maps

- William Roy, Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-55.
- 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, Stirlingshire X.12 (Logie) Survey date: 1860, Publication date: 1864.
- 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, Perth and Clackmannanshire - Perthshire & Clackmannanshire (Det.) CXXXIII.9 (Logie (Part of)) Survey date: 1862, Publication date: 1864.



- Adair, John, ca. 1650-1722, A map of Strath Devon and the district between the Ochils and the Forth, Date: 1681.

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Rogers, C. (1853) *A Week in Bridge of Allan*. Edinburgh. Adam and Charles Black North Bridge.

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7. Images

Designation consultation



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Images proposed for inclusion in online inventory record if garden and designed landscape becomes designated or if an existing inventory record is amended.



Type: Standard
Title: University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), Airthrey Castle, photographed from the southeast.
Alternative Text: University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), Airthrey Castle, photographed from the southeast, on clear day with blue sky.
Date taken: 11/08/2022
Photographer: HES
Copyright: © Historic Environment Scotland



Type: Standard
Title: University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), looking west towards loch and student accommodation.
Alternative Text: University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), looking west loch and student accommodation, on clear day with blue sky.
Date taken: 11/08/2022
Photographer: HES
Copyright: © Historic Environment Scotland



Type: Standard
Title: University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), looking south to the Wallace Monument with Stirling University Campus, Bridge Over Airthrey Loch (LB51326) and Macrobert Arts Centre to right.
Alternative Text: University of Stirling (Airthrey Castle), looking south towards the Wallace Monument with Stirling University Campus, Bridge Over Airthrey Loch (LB51326) and the Macrobert Arts Centre to the right on a clear day with blue sky.
Date taken: 11/08/2022
Photographer: HES
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8. Indicative Map

Attached separately.