Annex 4 – Peter McGowan Associates (Feb 2009), “Designed Landscapes in the Scottish Borders: Guidance on Management and Restoration”

Designed Landscapes in the Scottish Borders

D R A F T – Feb'09

Guidance on Management and Restoration

Designed landscapes in the Tweed valley east of Peebles

This guide has been prepared to assist owners and managers in caring for the fine heritage of designed landscapes found in the Scottish Borders.

Designed landscapes and their policy woodlands make a major contribution to the landscape quality and attractiveness of the Borders.

This guidance note sets out to:

- summarise a recently completed survey of the extent and quality of designed landscapes in the Borders to achieve better understanding of the resource
- assist owners in deciding what actions may be necessary when seeking funding for conservation management
- outline the components of designed landscapes, their design principles and common management issues
- help plan a planting or restocking project
- aid understanding by a summary of historical landscape types in the Borders, other background information and links to further information.

How can designed landscapes be identified?

In many parts of Scotland including the Scottish Borders, designed landscapes account for much of the land we view as countryside. Many people do not recognise that these particularly fine areas of landscape have been deliberately designed. From the roadside, estate walls, boundary tree belts and formal gateways and lodges are indicators. Planting features will include avenues of mature trees, parkland grazing with large trees and tree clumps, and a variety of woodland types. Near the main house may be terraced gardens, shrubberies, wild gardens and collections of fine trees. Within the site will also be found a walled or kitchen garden, stables block, estate cottages, dovecot, ice-house and, possibly, ornamental buildings and follies. In the outer parts of the site pasture and arable farmland and larger-scale commercial forestry plantations may play a part.

The forms that designed landscapes take can be identified on maps and on the ground, although their variability and degree of design can sometimes make this difficult.

What is a designed landscape?

Designed landscape is a term describing the ornamental grounds of country houses and institutions, public parks and similar sites. This includes gardens and *policies* ie. 'the enclosed, planted and partly embellished park or demesne land lying around a country house' – what in England would be termed the *park*.

The following definition of designed landscapes is used here:

Grounds deliberately enclosed and laid out for aesthetic effect by any combination of landforming, building, water management and planting, and overlaying natural landscape features, for pleasure and productive purposes.

Listing and recording designed landscapes

The *Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape in Scotland* (the *Inventory*) is the only official national list of gardens and designed landscapes in Scotland. It was first published by government agencies in 1987 and is now managed by Historic Scotland and available on its website. Currently it lists and describes over 380 sites across Scotland, including thirty sites in the Scottish Borders.

It is widely recognised that many more gardens and designed landscapes exist than are included in the *Inventory*. The Garden History Society in Scotland estimates that the *Inventory* may represent about 10% of gardens and designed landscapes nationally, there being many other significant sites of national, regional or local value that could be worth conserving and that should be taken into account in the planning process.

Dawyck – one of the Borders finest designed landscapes and an Inventory site

Survey of designed landscapes in the Scottish Borders

The research and site visits in the Scottish Borders Forest Strategy designed landscapes survey produced a list of 184 sites of national, regional or local interest, including the thirty *Inventory* sites.

Information on each site has been gathered in a Schedule of Sites, with the following information listed for each site:

Site name and reference number; OS grid reference; notable characteristics; site history and description; significance; condition; and management issues.

The boundary of each site has been defined and entered in the Council's GIS database, together with the boundaries shown in the *Inventory* for those sites. The schedule information is also contained in the GIS database and is linked to each mapped site. The information is available for the use of council officers and the public through the Scottish Borders Council website.

The survey shows a wealth of fine places in outstanding settings showing great variety in terms of size, layout and features. The number of sites that are abandoned, neglected or spoilt due to inappropriate development is a small proportion of the total and these are balanced by others that are exemplars of good management. However, few sites are without problems, mostly attributable to lack of resources for good management.

Much of the landscape of the river valleys, that are the principal transport corridors in the Borders, is created by estate landscapes. Long stretches of many valleys are almost totally the creation of 17th to 19th century landscape design, with 20th century afforestation often being the only major addition. In short, the Borders has a tremendous wealth of designed landscapes contributing to the overall quality of its countryside that deserves careful planning and management.

Statutory protection and planning policies

The only statutory protection for designed landscapes is *The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Order* 1992 that gives responsibility to Historic Scotland for gardens and designed landscapes. The order requires local authorities to consult Historic Scotland on development which may affect sites identified in the *Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland*.

Local Plan policies give some further protection. Scottish Borders Finalised Local Plan Policy BE3 – Gardens and Designed Landscapes states:

> Development will be refused where it has an unacceptable adverse impact on the landscape features, character or setting of:
>
> – sites listed in the *Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes*,
>
> – historic gardens and designed landscapes recorded in the Council's Sites and Monument Record.

The designed landscapes identified in the SBFS survey have been added to the Council's Sites and Monument Record so that they are covered by policy BE3.

Values and uses of designed landscapes

Designed landscape are an important part of our heritage and have continuing values and uses. Their values include:

- artistic value in their combination of natural landscape and man-made design features
- historical value on account of family history, role in national or local history, association with famous people including designers
- horticultural value due to excellence of garden or plant collections, or arboricultural value for its variety of trees
- architectural value as the setting for listed buildings and works by renowned architects
- scenic value for contribution to the local landscape
- nature conservation value on account of the habitats and diversity of species of native flora and fauna
- archaeological value for physical remains from any period including evidence of gardens from earlier periods

In terms of use, all sites have a combination of pleasure and productive land uses, including:

- recreational uses for owners and/or visitors
- agriculture and forestry
- sporting use (shooting, fishing)
- direct and indirect contribution to local tourism.

Boundary hedges and tree belts – typical view from road

Landscape components

Designed landscapes were laid out over ground with natural landform, watercourses and vegetation, sometimes already improved for agricultural use. The natural landscape usually still plays a major role in the design together with the following man-made features.

Buildings – mansion house, stables, estate cottages, lodges – are essential components, together with garden buildings – follies and eye-catchers, dovecots, ice-houses and walled gardens with glasshouses, conservatories and bothies.

Enclosures – hahas, terrace walls and balustrades, estate fences, field boundaries, estate walls.

Landform – terrace banks, ground-moulding, causeways, rockwork.

Circulation – drives, estate roads, rides, walks, footpaths, steps and bridges.

Water features – may be adapted natural watercourses – rills, cascades, glens – or formal elements fed by them – canals, pools, fountains.

Planted features – parkland, avenues, boundary belts, roadside trees and hedges, shrubberies and ornamental woodland, arboretums, policy woodland, forestry plantations kitchen gardens, and other gardens in all their variety.

Views and visual structure – while these components are not physical they are as much part of the design as the other features and include vistas (narrow axial views), broader views and panoramas, and the contained and linked spaces formed by planting and walls. External views, whether expansive or directed at specific features, are often also important.

Each of these component groups needs regular maintenance and repair for their survival, and may entail substantial investment to restore neglected features. Each is a specialist area that may require professional inputs and skilled craftsmen. While recognising all the components that comprise a designed landscape, this leaflet deals in detail only with the planted components and the visual structure that they create.

Tall conifers pinpoint a small designed landscape in its wider setting

Designed landscapes into the 21st century

Most Borders designed landscapes in the form they exist today are the product of the 19th century and earlier periods. The problems adapting to the huge economic and social changes of the 20th century – reduced estate incomes, loss of manpower, costs of maintenance and development pressures – affect all properties to a greater or lesser degree. Most sites have been through processes of change periodically. Further adaptation and change, including new uses and development, may have to be part of the future of many sites. This can be possible without detriment if done in a sensitive and planned way based on a full understanding of the values of the place.

Conservation management plans

The recommended basis for all management and development in designed landscapes is a Conservation Management Plan. This is a document produced by an experienced professional or site manager that:

- gives a detailed understanding of the site and its features through research, consultations and surveys
- provides a statement of cultural significance of the whole site and its major components
- assesses the threats to its heritage and other management problems
- sets out conservation policies as the basis for future management, conservation works and new developments or changes
- lays down management policies and proposals.

Balancing priorities

The value of the Conservation Management Plan process is that by rating the significance of the different aspects of the landscape, priorities can be established and balance achieved between different objectives, for example between:

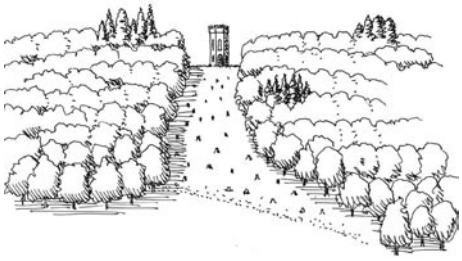
- restoration of the planted and built designed landscape features
- preserving visual amenity and the scenic value of the site
- insuring the viability of agriculture and forestry
- conserving habitats and encouraging species diversity
- providing for the requirements for field sports
- providing public access and visitor attractions
- achieving the best use of available resources.

Design principles and common issues

Clearance to restore views, spaces and routes

Once the historic layout and its design are understood and before any new or replacement planting it may be possible to significantly improve the landscape by removal of undergrowth and natural regeneration to re-open intended views or vistas and other visual links of the layout.

Depending on how altered or overgrown the landscape has become, it may be possible by clearance of later additions and undergrowth to recreate lost spaces, to reform field boundary lines and to re-establish overgrown paths and drives.



Reopening a view to an eye-catcher

Declining parkland trees

Parkland – individual trees, roundels and clumps

Grazed parkland is perhaps the most common feature derived from the English landscape garden tradition. Tree and groups are often arranged to create a sense of depth in the principal views from house and drives, by their overlapping forms to disguise boundaries, to channel views, and to create a character of open woodland or woodland pasture. Often parkland planting appears quite random and unrefined, while still creating a distinct character, and in other places can be subtly planned to create particular visual effects.

If no detailed estate surveys are available, the best basis for restoring the pattern of planting is often the 1:2500 1st edition Ordnance Survey, generally surveyed in the period 1850-70, which is available for all the Borders. Original tree species should be used and its is essential to protect against livestock, horses, deer and rabbits (see Tree Protection below).

Parkland trees restocked by Borders Forest Trust

Typical components of parkland planting creating subtle views

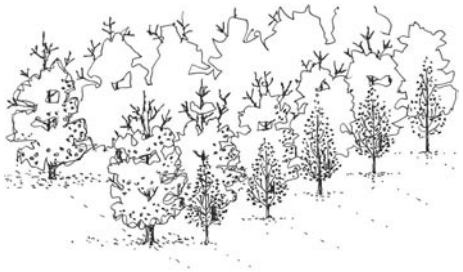
LEFT Lost parkland clumps indicated by remains of drystone walls

Avenues

Avenues of lime, beech, sycamore or oak may survive from the formal landscapes of 17th and 18th century or be of later origin, either accompanying principal drives or forming main vistas. Avenues may be single or double rows, or even narrow belts. The difficulty is how to restock the avenue while the retaining the valuable original trees – whether to thin the old trees and interplant in the row, to replace with a parallel row – or to fell wholesale and plant a complete new avenue. The solution will vary depending of the characteristics of the each avenue, the spacing of trees, the width between rows and the adjoining space available.

Revitalising of some trees by hard pruning is a management option in some cases, eg. lime avenues of a certain age and condition, although this approach needs to be based on good arboricultural advice.

Lime avenue

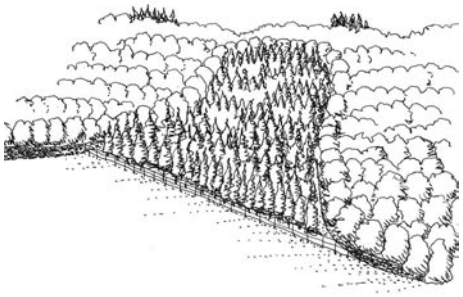


Avenue replanting by parallel interplanting

Boundary belts and strip

Tree belts of mixed broadleaves, often with some Scots pine or larch, are the traditional form of enclosure for estate boundaries and parks within the designed landscape. Belts may be geometric and of regular width or of more naturalistic shapes related to the landform. The survey found great variety in the condition of belts, some retaining a balanced age and species structure, while others had been felled in the WW2 period and then left to regenerate naturally with no regular management. The most common problem is gaps or sections planted with commercial conifer species, particularly Sitka spruce, in the 1960s and 1970s, spoiling the character of the belts and the spaces they form. Felling these areas and restocking with broadleaves, plus Scots pine where appropriate, is the preferred solution.

Woodland replanting ignoring original pattern of clumps and boundaries



Planting parkland to simplify boundaries resulting in loss of character

Policy woodlands and plantation edges

The size and type of planted features in a designed landscape will grade from smaller belts and clumps near the core to extensive forestry plantations on the outer hill land, with the primary function grading from ornamental or amenity to commercial forestry. Policy woodlands typically should have some of both functions and will have had good timber trees removed for sale periodically. Many woods today suffer from a prevalence of commercial conifers and require restructuring to mixed broadleaves, similarly to boundary belts.

The design of policy woodlands depends on the style of the landscape and may be geometric blocks or organically-shaped areas. Various degrees of irregularity relate to the character of individual designs. Often the complexity of a layout and its woodland edges has been lost in the desire to save on the cost of boundary dykes and fences, or to infill parts or entire grazed parks. The reinstatement of woodland boundaries and the reforming of original spaces is an essential item in restoring a designed landscape.

Roadside trees and hedges

Beech hedges with sides shaped to a batter are characteristic of some areas of the Borders, in most cases planted by the local estate, sometimes with mature trees in the adjoining verge. Where trees occur in the hedgeline itself, it is usually set back from the road edge. Roadside trees are sometimes seen as a hazard, although few accidents occur and timeous replacement with young trees can avoid the problem. The hedges survive remarkably, although in some places gaps need to be replanted, but depend on continued regular maintenance. The roadside tree stock is generally aged or over-mature and requires a programme of replacement planting. Both are necessary to preserve the character of these Borders roads.

Ageing, potentially dangerous roadside trees

Field boundary trees

In some parts of the Borders, field boundary trees and hedges are an essential part of the outer agricultural areas of estate landscapes. As with roadside trees, they are invariably ageing and gradually disappearing. Again, replacement planting is needed to perpetuate the character of these areas.

Field boundary trees

Ornamental planting and collections

Close to the main house and principal approaches use of exotic broadleaves and conifers with flowering and evergreen shrubs is the norm. Such planting both forms both the setting for the building and routes and provides visual delight and natural beauty. Often tall specimen conifers in these areas pinpoint the core of the landscape when seen over the tree-tops from a distance. At their most ambitious such tree planting is organised into arboretums or pinetums that have scientific as well as ornamental value.

Ancient trees

Mature and ageing trees bring problems of safety and appearance, as well as the issue of planting replacements. Where old trees are near drives, footpaths or other public areas, owners have a responsibility to keep them in a safe condition. Elsewhere there are strong aesthetic and nature conservation reasons to retain old and ancient (over 200 years) trees, particularly where they have no timber value.

Ornamental tree planting

Forestry plantations

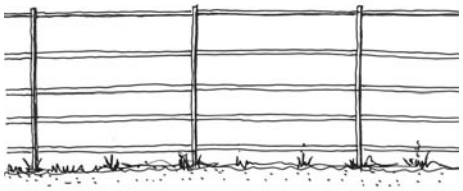
Plantations of commercial conifers have been part of the Borders landscape for centuries, with Scots pine, European fir, Norway spruce and European larch in use during the 18th century and with a greatly expanded choice of species from North America added in the 19th century. At different scales, conifers have both ornamental and commercial roles in designed landscapes, but have become dominant woodland type, replacing broadleaved woodland to the detriment of visual and ecologically diversity, on many estates. Ornamental planting close to the main house often features North American conifers – Wellingtonia, Douglas fir, Western hemlock – while forestry on the outer hill land is almost exclusively coniferous. There are locations in designed landscapes for these tree types but they need to be kept in the right place.

Ancient oak

Extensive afforestation in Tweed valley enclosing designed landscapes

Walled garden retaining traditional use by a hotel

Abandoned walled garden and conservatory



Traditional iron estate fence

Beech hedges, typical of many estates

Use of walled gardens

Very few walled gardens survive in traditional use as productive kitchen gardens for vegetables, fruit and flowers. Their excellent growing conditions resulting from their design and build-up of fertile soil demands a preference for horticultural uses above use for single or multiple house plots. Successful examples exist in the Borders of:

- hotel vegetable and ornamental garden
- retail plant nursery or garden centre
- market gardening / organic vegetable growing
- commercial tree nursery

Fences and signs

Although this guidance is concerned primarily with planting in designed landscapes, fencing and signage can have a significant impact on landscape quality. Use of urban fence types that are out of character and proliferation of signs can be problematic, particularly where sites are in divided ownership with several uses and there is no coordinated management.

There is not space here to consider all the options for fencing. Traditional iron estate railings are preferable where a stock-proof fence is needed along drives, although their expense means that timber rail or agricultural fences may be an acceptable alternative. Similar fences should be used in other part of the landscape. Where present, drystone walls and hawthorn, beech or mixed-species hedges should be maintained where ever possible.

All signs will be intrusive to a degree in a rural landscape and so their use should be minimised. Materials and graphic design should be chosen to balance the need to be visible and deliver a message with the requirement that signs fit into their setting. Adoption of a single house style to avoid a variety of different kinds of signs is preferable.

Access and interpretation

Planning for public access and provision of information on the heritage of a site are often integral to grant aid for restoration and restocking sites. Good sources of guidance are available for both of these subject areas, eg. from SNH, and its is essential that they are considered at the earliest stage of planning a project.

Evidence from the Borders survey suggests that while many places provide for public access, publicising of routes in ways that are accessible and welcoming to visitors is lacking.

The most appropriate media for interpretation will vary with each site, with a general inclination to avoid panels on site – with their limitations in terms of intrusion, durability and vulnerability to abuse – in preference for leaflets or similar. Evidence from the Borders survey suggests that the history of the estate and its designed landscape is a theme seldom interpreted, despite its interest.

Old parkland trees with good restocking in golf course

Planning a planting or restocking project

Planning a planting project will require an experienced land manager or professional advisor such as a forester or landscape architect. The size and type of trees, ground preparation, planting technique and protection will vary depending on site characteristics, including soil type and microclimate. The following notes give outline guidance only.

Selection of species

The starting point for all planting in designed landscapes is the historic precedent – in most cases owners and managers in the 17th to 19th centuries had greater empathy with their landscapes and knowledge of planting than we have now and their original choices are the best to follow and, in some situations, should be followed for historical accuracy. Although trees native to the region are preferable in some situations, long-established policy planting may use a greater range of British and European natives. Typical species for different features include:

Avenues – ash, beech, lime, oak, sycamore

Parkland – beech, horse chestnut, lime, oak, sycamore, sweet chestnut; cedars, Scots pine, Wellingtonia and other conifers sometimes used

Field boundaries and roadsides – ash, beech, oak, sycamore

Policy woodlands and boundary belts – ash, beech, lime, oak, sycamore, Scots pine, larch

Feature conifers – cedars, Douglas fir, noble fir, Scots pine, yew, Wellingtonia, western hemlock

(Notes: Wych elm is omitted due to Dutch elm disease. Precise species of birch, oak, lime etc will vary depending on the site characteristics and cultivars may be appropriate in some situations. Where the aim is to create semi-natural woodland habitats, local strains may be sourced.

Avenue replanting

Size and type of planting

Standard trees – 2.75-3.00m high or lighter/heavier, suitable for restocking avenues, individual parkland trees and small groups or roundels – staked and tied for first year or two, with rabbit protection and stock-proof guards or fences.

Forestry transplants – typically 45-60cm high, suitable for planting new woodland and restocking – with tree-shelters or rabbit and stock fences.

Managed natural regeneration – an alternative to planting but dependent on presence of seed sources of desirable tree species; presence of seed of vigorous conifers, birch, ash, sycamore etc may dictate against this.

Protection of planting

Protection of young trees from grazing stock, deer, hares and rabbits can be a major cost of a planting project but is essential for successful establishment.

Permanent protection from stock is necessary for trees adjoining or within grazing land. Field boundaries and fences around clumps and roundels need to

Preferred young tree protection in parkland

be kept secure and appropriate and durable forms of barrier maintained around the trunks of parkland trees.

Protection of parkland and avenue trees – robust timber tree guards (as example below) to keep stem and branches out of the reach of stock and deer, and withstanding brushing by cattle, also provided with rabbit protection (wire mesh or spiral guard etc).

After establishment, steel tree guards are a good solution providing they are adjusted or upgraded as the girth of tree trunks increase.

Protection of roundels and clumps – rabbit- and stock-proof fence (in grazed parkland) as Forestry Commission *Technical Guide, Forest Fencing*.

Protection of woods and belts – deer-, livestock- and rabbit-proof fencing as Forestry Commission *Technical Guide, Forest Fencing*.

Maintenance of planting

Many planting and restocking schemes fail due to lack of after care. Maintenance is limited to a few seasonal or annual operations and is not onerous but needs to be allowed for in annual budgets and planned into contracts or work schedules. Operations will depend on the features of the planting scheme and will include:

- weed control to reduce competition in during early years of establishment
- adjustment of tree ties; checking rabbit protection; removal of stakes; removal of tree shelters
- beating up or replacement of dead plants
- brashing and thinning to final spacing
- control of litter
- maintenance of tree protection

There is a need to facilitate safe access over fences to planting areas for maintenance by means of gates or stiles.

Sources of Funding

New forestry grants were introduced in 2008 as part of the new Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP). The rural programme will bring together a wide range of formerly separate schemes including those covering farming, forestry, environmental management, rural enterprise and diversification.

The SRDP is based on a three-tier structure of support:

Single Farm Payment – payments linked to a basic level of environmental protection, food safety and animal welfare.

Land Managers Options – offering support for a wide range of activities leading to economic, social and environmental improvements.

Rural priorities – most applicable to designed landscapes – aimed at specific, high value benefits that are competitive and prioritised leading to economic, social and environmental enhancement. Rural priorities are defined by regional committees, so they will vary across Scotland.

The implementation of the new rural programme is being coordinated by the Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

The proposed grants scheme aims to support the following activities:

- creation of new woodlands
- management of existing woodlands
- woodland improvement activities
- landscape enhancement, eg. maintenance and repair of hedgerows, walls etc.
- heritage tree management
- improvement of public access, eg. provision of paths, signage etc
- provision of interpretation.

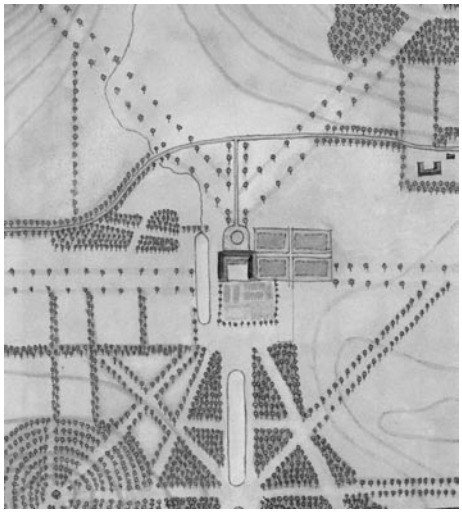
Traquair – with a core of formal components

Landscape design periods and styles

The landscape of the Borders is a product of, on one hand, the varied geology, topography, soils and climate across the region and, on the other, the centuries of human settlement and interaction with the natural environment. This cultural landscape is a result of changing economic and social conditions, and developments in fashion and technology over the centuries. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the ever-changing styles of architecture and designed landscapes. While some landscapes may be the product of a single period, others display features from several different periods of their history.

Medieval period to 1600

Throughout much of the medieval period large parts the Borders were under the control of the Crown and of monastic houses. As well as being gradually cleared for agriculture, remnants of the natural woodland which once clothed the land were being conserved and exploited for their timber, or were being protected as royal hunting reserves. Scattered across the area were the defensible tower houses of the social élite, some of which possessed walled and terraced gardens, and their own managed woodlands, maintained for shelter, for their timber, or as hunting parks. From documentary evidence and from maps published in Johan Blaeu's Atlas Novus (1654), based on survey work undertaken by Timothy Pont more than fifty years earlier, we get an impression of a late-medieval Borders landscape well-settled, but largely unenclosed, within which were scattered fragments and a few larger areas of woodland.



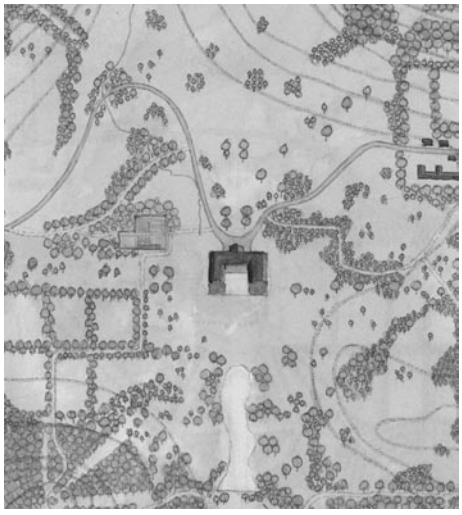
Typical plan about 1700

Order and symmetry 1600 to 1750

The waning of monastic and royal power, and an increase in wealth among the landed gentry, saw tower houses modified or replaced with new mansions set in their own designed landscapes. From about 1650 the increasing order and symmetry displayed in architecture came to be reflected in the surrounding landscape, in geometrical patterns of planting, characterised by straight avenues, broad rides and radiating vistas. Beyond this landowners began to enclose their land with walls and hedges, creating tree-lined grazing parks and fields in place of the unenclosed cultivation rigs of earlier times. New tree species such as lime and beech were planted to augment the remnants of the natural woodland. Alongside plantations of Scots pine came the first introductions of species such as European larch and Norway spruce. This was a rapidly evolving landscape, a good impression of which can be gained from maps made as part of Roy's Military Survey of Scotland 1747-55.

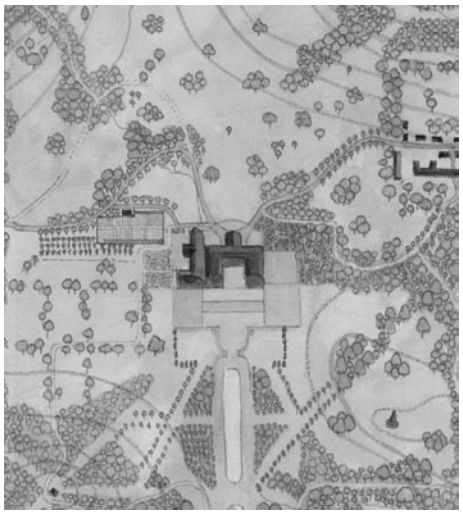
Improvement and modernisation 1750 to 1880

In the closing decades of the 18th century the rectilinear plantations began to disappear in favour of a more naturalistic style of planting. The new landscapes were characterised by plantations with sinuous edges, sweeping drives and parkland planted with clumps or single trees. Buildings, too, changed as the classical style yielded to the gothic, and ultimately to the Scots baronial style in architecture. While some designs were created from scratch, many older layouts



Typical plan about 1800

Monteviot – with extensive natural-style parkland and plantations



Typical plan about 1890

were adapted at the hands of a new profession of landscape architects, by such men as Robert Robinson, Thomas White and William Sawrey Gilpin. Nurserymen, such as Dicksons of Hassendeanburn, benefited from a burgeoning demand for new and exotic plants sought by their wealthy clients, including conifers, rhododendrons and other shrubs that were being discovered and introduced to Britain from America and elsewhere.

Sir Walter Scott's influence extended well beyond his estate of Abbotsford, which he began to plant in 1812, in the advice he gave to friends and neighbours. Money derived from industry, agriculture and commerce ensured that the many Borders landscapes reached a high point in their development during this period.

Fragmentation, decline and new planting

Although many estates entered the 20th century in good shape, two World Wars brought far-reaching social and economic changes that left few estates untouched. Unable to maintain their properties in the face of changed circumstances, many owners chose to demolish their unwieldy mansions or to sell off parts of their estates. Government policy, reflected in grant aid given to landowners by the Forestry Commission, saw broadleaved estate woodlands felled and replaced with quick-growing conifers. In several places large tracts of unproductive hill land were sold to the Forestry Commission and planted with commercial conifer crops, radically altering the landscape.

Amidst all these changes many designed landscapes in the Borders continue to be maintained well. Yet there is no escaping the relentless pressure for development. While there are some country houses which have found new uses as hotels, conference centres or care homes, and while there are designed landscapes which have survived through their adaptation as golf courses or public parks, there are many which have become fragmented and affected by built development, especially around the towns.

Dangerous trees – one of many problems of aging sites

Abandoned landscape retaining many interesting features

Further information and advice

Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Directorate – www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Rural /SRDP

Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP).

Forestry Commission – www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Grants and licences; forestry initiatives; extensive technical advice on all aspects of tree cultivation, woodlands and forestry; land information search.

Scottish Natural Heritage – www.snh.org.uk

Statutory protection of sites and species; Scottish Outdoor Access Code; country parks; grants and licences; interpretation; access design guidance; signs guidance.

Scottish Borders Council – www.scotborders.gov.uk

Planning and development control; advice on heritage sites including design landscapes.

Historic Scotland – www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape in Scotland; listed buildings.

Garden History Society in Scotland – www.gardenhistorysociety.org / scotland@gardenhistorysociety.org

Independent source of information and advice.

The Landscape Institute – www.landscapeinstitute.org

Appointing a Landscape Architect, list of practices.

Royal Scottish Forestry Society – www.rsfs.org

Journal, events and research related to trees, woods and forestry in Scotland.

All photopgrahs taken during the Scottish Borders Forest Strategy designed landscapes survey in 2007.

This guidance and the preceding survey are outcomes of the Scottish Borders Woodland Strategy (SBWS). In 2005 the SBWS was launched as part of an amendment to the Structure Plan. In the Strategy, promoting the role of designed landscapes in the Scottish Borders was one of a series of key tasks and policies for maximising the uses and benefits of trees, woodlands and forests.

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