The Development of the Gardens and Designed Landscape at ARNOTDALE HOUSE / DOLLAR PARK, FALKIRK

GLORIOUS GARDENS

Exploring our hidden gardens and forgotten landscapes

Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

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Dollar Park, Falkirk

NGR: 87996 80243

Report on the development of the designed landscape

on behalf of

Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

Registered Charity No SC034618

Cover Plate: Arnotdale House in Dollar Park.

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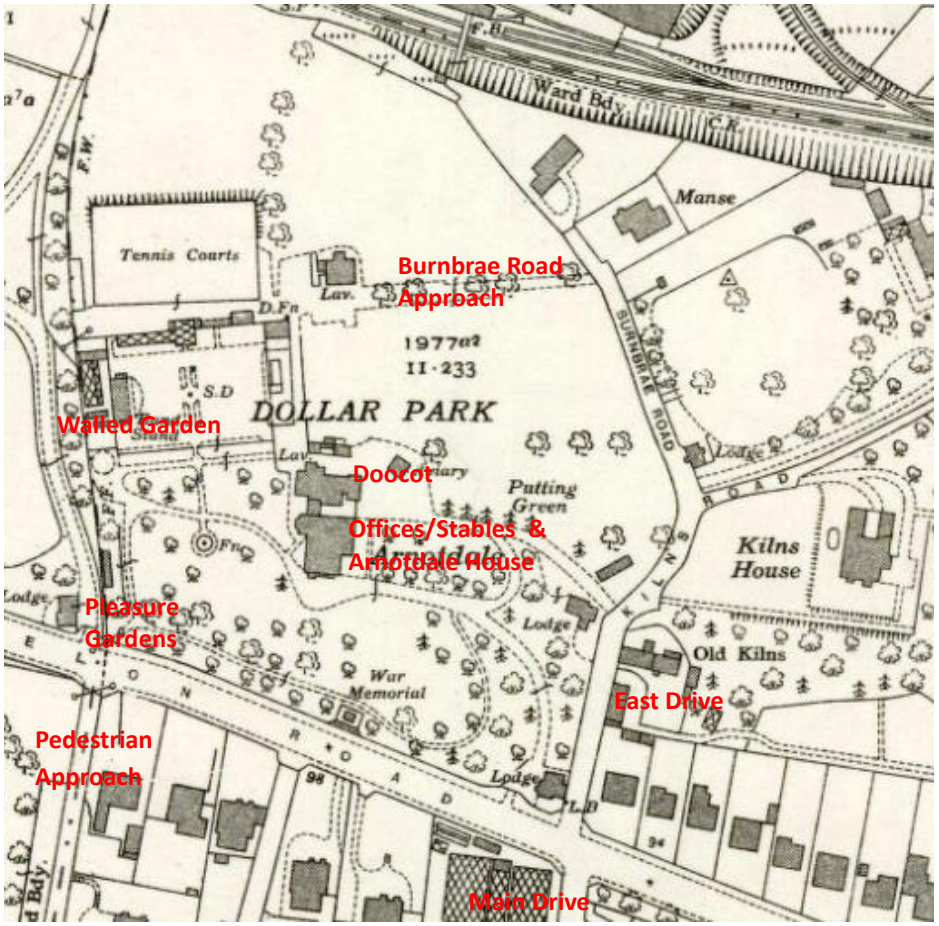

Illus 1: Dollar Park (then known as Arnotdale estate) as shown on the 4th edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map of 1847, with components marked in red (map reproduced from http://www.maps.nls.uk).

1.0 Introduction to Glorious Gardens

Glorious Gardens was a two-year pilot project (2015-17) to research and record historic gardens and designed landscapes in two areas of Scotland. The project focused on properties which are not listed in the Historic Scotland Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, but which still retain evidence for their development and have some conservation value.

One strand of the pilot project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), studied properties in the Falkirk local authority area while another strand, funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund, focused on gardens and designed landscapes (GDLs) in the Clyde & Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) area.

The Glorious Gardens pilot project was initiated and managed by Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage, who contracted Northlight Heritage to recruit, train and support groups of volunteers to conduct the research and produce reports on properties in each area during 2015-2017.

This report was written by Allan Meek, the volunteer who conducted the research and survey work. The assessment of significance (section 7) was conducted by Northlight Heritage based on his findings.

2.0 Introduction to Arnotdale House / Dollar Park

Arnotdale House (NGR: NS 8800 8023) once sat at the centre of an elaborate garden landscape in what is now known as Dollar Park, Falkirk. It is situated on the north side of the A803 Camelon Road, Falkirk, and is approximately a quarter of a mile to the west of the town of Falkirk. Since 1922 the park has been owned by Falkirk Council and is now managed by Falkirk Community Trust on behalf of the local authority. The park is within the Arnothill and Dollar Park Conservation Area.

Dollar Park covers an area of approximately eleven and a half acres. Today it can be accessed through four entrances. The land that was to become Dollar Park in the 1920s was originally part of the Kills or Kilns estate, which was in turn part of the much larger estate of Easter Bantaskine. Arnotdale House was built around 1830 and set within a compact but elaborate designed landscape for Robert Russel, a well-known and respected Falkirk lawyer and businessman. The property belonged to and was developed by various owners in the 19th century before it was sold in 1920 to Robert Dollar. Dollar, after whom the park is named, was born in Falkirk but left for Canada at the age of 13, purchased the estate and gifted it to the Burgh of Falkirk for the good of the people.

Name	Designation	Grade	ID	Web link
Arnotdale	Listed building	B	LB31224	http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB31224

3.0 Methods

The study followed the project methodology, as detailed in the Glorious Gardens Method Statement (see project archive, held at the National Record of the Historic Environment maintained by HES).

It involved the consultation of key historic maps, aerial photographs, local and national archives, and databases of heritage assets and statutory designations. The results were entered on a Property Information form, hosted on a secure server, to ensure a consistent level of recording.

The desk-based research was followed by a systematic walkover survey in February 2017 to identify and record surviving components and key elements of the historic designed landscape. The survey employed a recording system designed for the project that combines written field notes, tablet-based data capture and photography. All data gathered during the project are available for consultation as part of the Glorious Gardens archive, held at the National Record of the Historic Environment maintained by HES. The sources consulted are listed in section 8.

The information gathered has been synthesised to establish a baseline understanding of the development of the designed landscape and its current state, including its overall structure, surviving components and conservation opportunities.

4.0 Desk-based research results

4.1 Historic maps

The name 'Dollar Park' appears on the Ordnance Survey maps from 1947 onwards. Prior to this the area is shown as 'Arnotdale', as on the 1st edition OS map in 1860 and in subsequent maps until 1917. The name of Kill or Kills appears on William Roy's map of 1747-55 and Grassom's map of 1817.

This section summarises the changes to the designed landscape which are captured on each of the more informative historic maps. Section 6 draws out further evidence from the maps as it relates to specific components of the landscape.

Illus 2: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1747-55) (©British Library).

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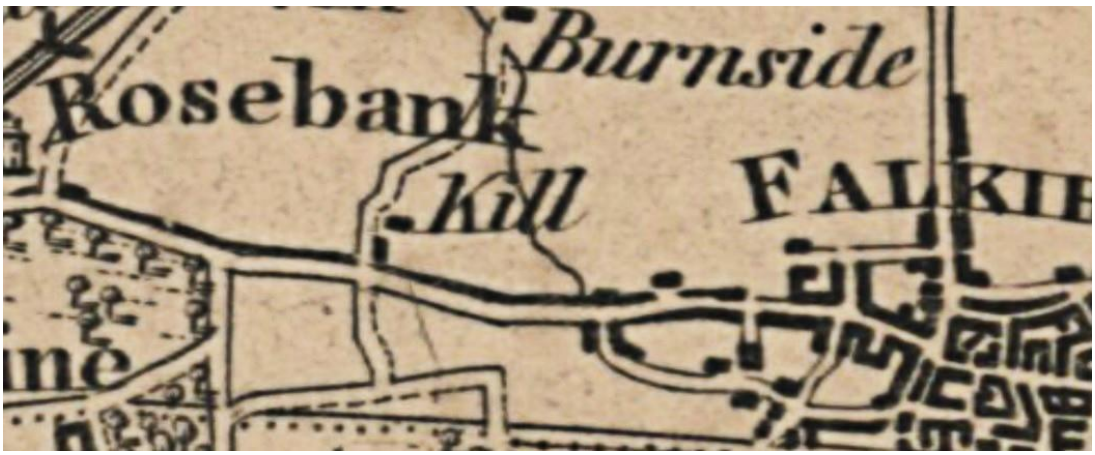
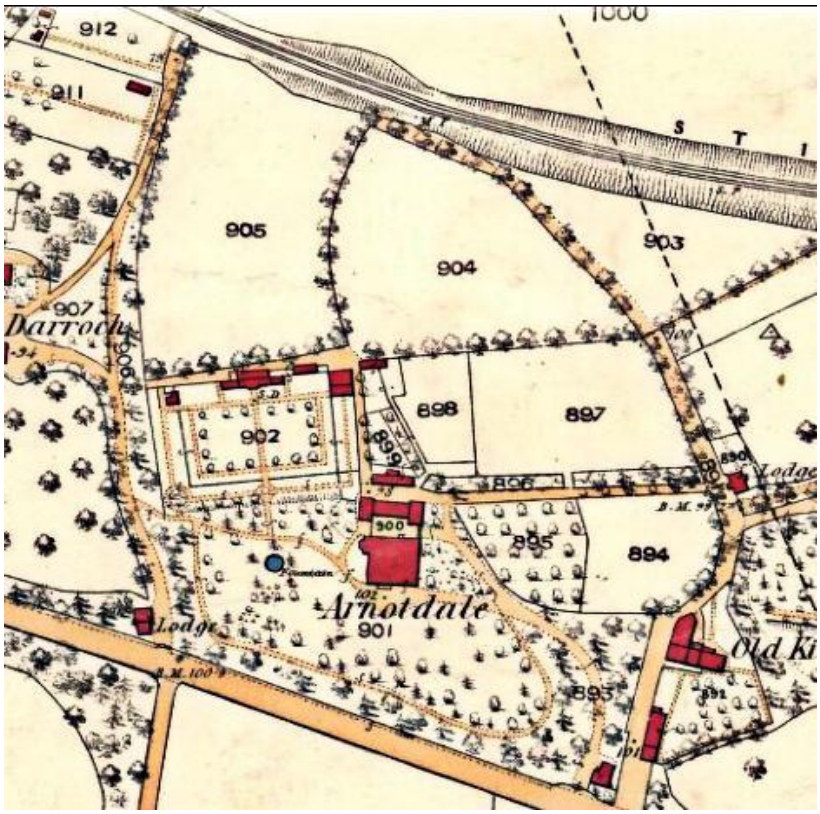
Roy's map shows the small estate of Kills in the general area that was to become Arnotdale and then Dollar Park. There are two structures within an enclosure set within cultivated rigs, located to the west of the town of Falkirk. The name Bantaskin can be noted to the south-west of Kills.

Illus 3: Grassom's (1817) To the Noblemen of the County of Stirling.

[

Grassom's map highlights Kill to the west of Falkirk, and the Arnotdale name is unknown in the area at this time (1817). On this map the road west out of the town is visible as is the road leading northwards and situated immediately west of Kill.

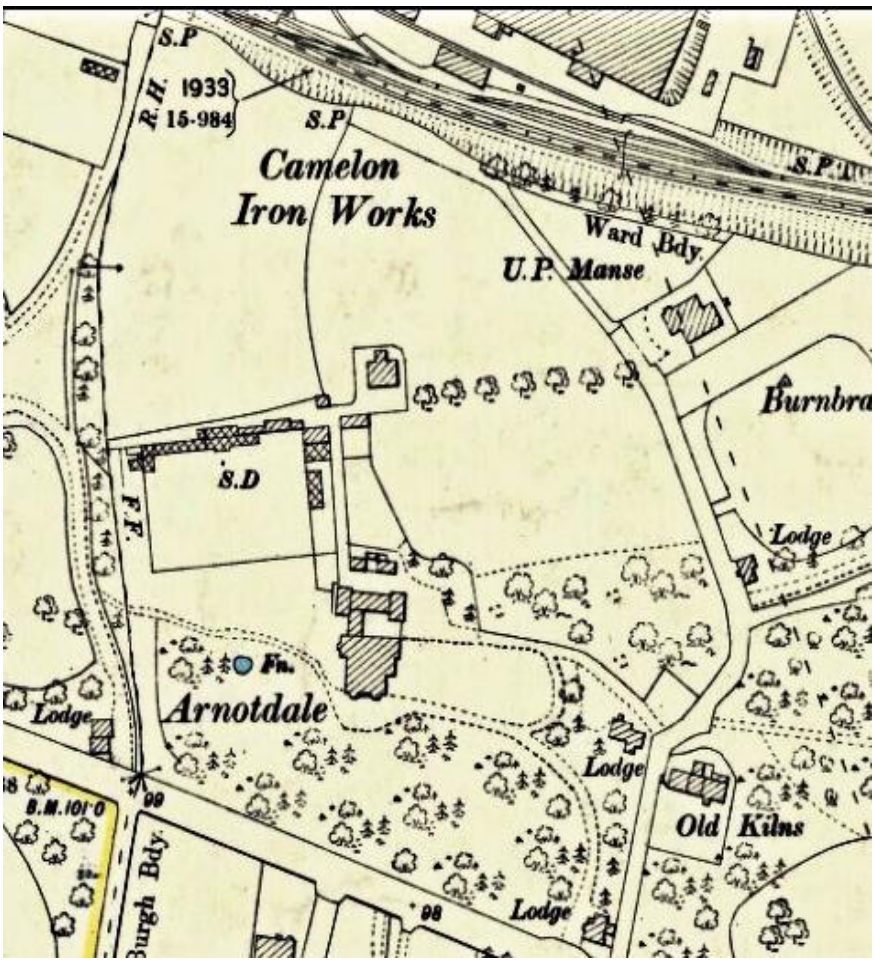
Illus 4: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (1st edition), Stirlingshire XXX.3 (Falkirk). Surveyed 1860, published 1864.



The 25-inch 1st edition Ordnance Survey map is the first to record the Arnotdale estate. Arnotdale appears as a mansion house set within designed gardens. Notable features include ancillary buildings which are likely to be the office/stable complex to the north of the house, the doocot (north again), a fountain, a walled garden containing a sundial and glasshouses, pleasure walks and pathways, and specimen trees and shrubs in the pleasure gardens to the south of the house. There is a view through from the walled garden to the fountain. A possible enclosed orchard is visible to the east of the mansion house, and small grass parks enclosed by shelter belts wrap around the house on the east and north.

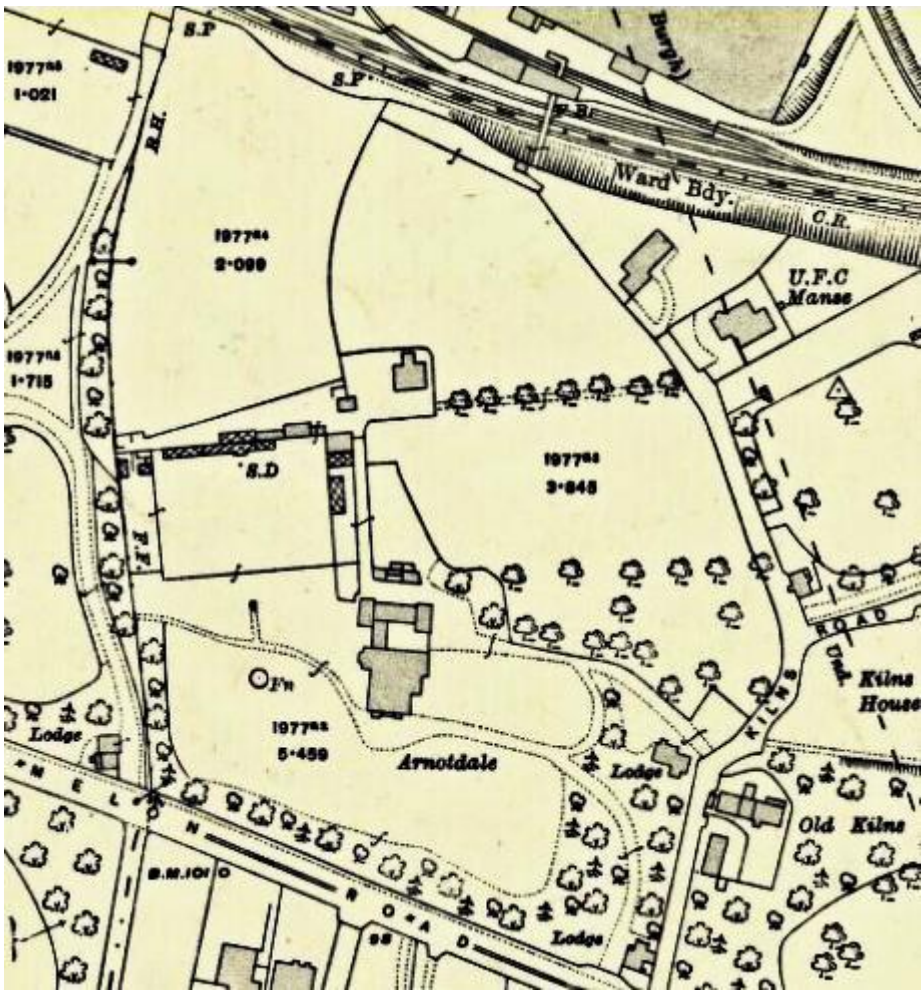
An entrance and driveway lead past a lodge into the estate from the east and what is now Burnbrae Road. This broad, rectilinear feature may be a service drive, leading to the rear of the house and the office/stables and doocot. There is another curvilinear driveway from the south-east, with a lodge at the entrance (although it is not marked as such). In keeping with the style of the period, the driveway sweeps west, arcing through planting into a carriage sweep at the front of the house (south side), although it also branches off on the east towards the offices/stables to the north. Smaller routeways extend beyond the house to the west, toward the road/drive to Darroch House.

Illus 5: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (2nd edition), Stirlingshire sheet n030.3 (Falkirk). Revised 1896, published 1898.



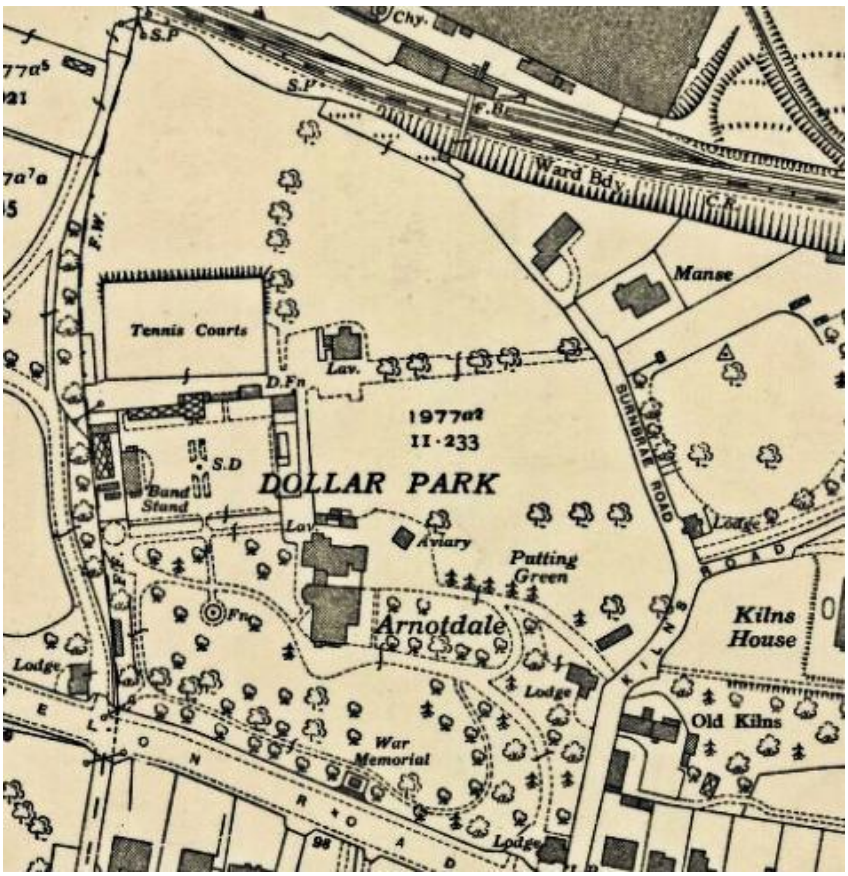
This 1898 edition of the Ordnance Survey map shows many of the features of the 1864 edition with some additional features. There are new buildings against the outer north and east walls of the walled garden, and the glasshouse appears to have been extended. On this edition, the glasshouses are indicated by hatching, and other features are identifiable as solid structures. The mansion house and office/stable complex have been joined, and it is likely that this structure also contained the heated swimming bath. A new structure north of the doocot may have been an estate cottage. The straight service drive leading to the rear of the office/stables complex has been removed, and a new entrance is located slightly further south. A lodge has been erected at the new entrance. The fence between the two more easterly grass parks has been taken down, but the line of trees remains. The orchard to the east of the house also appears to have been grubbed up. The presence of the Camelon Iron Works makes clear Falkirk's industrial past.

Illus 6: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (3rd edition), Stirlingshire n030.3 (Falkirk; Larbert). Revised 1913, published 1917.



By 1913 there have been minor changes to some of the smaller structures in and around the walled garden. The pleasure walks and smaller pathways are not shown and may have fallen into disrepair. The fountain and sundial are still marked and in their original positions. An informal entrance/pathway may have developed further north along the tree-lined field boundary close to the UFC Manse (from Burnbrae Road). There has been a significant reduction in the specimen trees in the area to the south of the house.

Illus 7: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (4th edition), Stirlingshire n030.2 (Falkirk. Larbert). Revised 1944, published 1947.



On the 1947 OS map, the name 'Arnotdale' is recorded in relation to the mansion house, but the estate is recorded as 'Dollar Park'. There are a number of new features associated with the estate's conversion to a public park. In the walled garden, the sundial has been moved to a central position, and a bandstand has been built, along with new glasshouses to the west of this. Tennis courts have been built to the north of the walled garden. A drinking fountain and lavatory are marked north-east of the walled garden. An aviary has been built to the north-east of the house and office/stables, and the latter have been extended. Other small structures have appeared at the edges of the park, and the pleasure walks south of the mansion house appear again and may have been reinstated. On the southern edge of the park and adjoining Camelon Road, a war memorial has been built. Some planting has taken place to the south of the house. There appear to be four entrances to the park by now: two from Camelon Road (one of these a small footpath), one from Burnbrae Road and one from Kilns Road. Whilst garden layouts were no longer mapped by the OS in residential properties after the first editions, the detail has been restored here as befits Dollar Park's new role as a public park.

5.0 Timeline for the Development of the Dollar Park Designed Landscape

Much of the information presented in the timeline is drawn from an article on Dollar Park by Geoff Bailey for Falkirk Local History Society and published on its website (www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk).

Date / Period	Event / Phase of Development
1425	Pettincoskan is the recorded name in 1425 but the modern name is Bantaskine, an area of Falkirk which was approximately 300 acres in size. What became Dollar Park is located at the northern end of Bantaskine. Over the centuries there have been many spellings of the name, but the Pictish element 'Pett' has remained as a feature in the Falkirk area.
17th century - mid 19th century	There are various references in earlier documents to the immediate area of Dollar Park by the name of 'Kilns' or 'Kills'. For example, 'Kylnes' appears in act of sasine to Patrick Williamsb[u]re in 1619. In 1639, Kills is given in sasine to John Mitchell, and in 1718 the name appears as Killns. In 1718, Alexander Nimmo received Kilns. Kilns Road is adjacent to Dollar Park, and Kilns House and Old Kilns appear on some of the earlier OS maps and are in existence today. The land upon which Russel built Arnotdale was originally part of the Kilns Estate.
1830-1904	About 1830, part of Kills was divided and purchased by James Russel, a lawyer and businessman from the Falkirk area. He had a mansion house built at the centre of a small garden estate and named it Arnotdale. The mansion house was probably designed by local architect Alexander Black, who also drew a plan of the estate in 1834. Between 1838 and 1853, Arnotdale appears in the charters of excambion. These papers relate to the railway company taking some land from the northern edge of the estate. Around 1854, Robert Forrest's sculpture 'Prodigal Son' was acquired by James Russel and set within the pleasure grounds of the property. He died there in 1858. In 1868, Robert Gillespie wrote in his book *Round About Falkirk* the following description of the grounds of Arnotdale: > We are also overpowered with the blaze of gay and gaudy blossoms. Still, from the exquisite commingling of colours, the loveliest, if not the grandest, of the floral beds, is that in which the grey cantauria, with its

> richly-powdered leaves, alternates with the 'cloth of gold' geranium, the blue lobellia, and the dwarf beet. Many beautiful shrubs and trees are likewise artistically set throughout the grounds; including the golden yew; the delicate Wellingtonia; the weeping gean, with its drooping foliage and bridal blooms; the gorgeous rhododendron plant; and the golden-tressed laburnum. But on the south lawn there is, perhaps rarest of them all, an old Scotch yew, which was transplanted into Arnotdale from Mungalhead, some six years ago. (Gillespie, R 1868, 35).

Between 1858 and 1904 Arnotdale had several other owners, including Sheriff Moffat, James Ross of Ross Chemicals and Robert Barr of Barrs Aerated Water, the company that invented Irn Bru.

1904

In 1904 Arnotdale was advertised for sale. The following particulars were given:

> The House contains 4 public rooms, 6 bedrooms, and 2 dressing rooms, day and night nurseries, bathroom, cloak-room, lavatories, kitchen, servants' accommodation, etc. The grounds extend to several acres, and there are first-class vineries, conservatories, etc; also large swimming bath under cover with means of heating. Ample stable accommodation and all other conveniences. Two lodges, occupied by gardener and coachman.

At this time the Arnotdale had two drives; the main drive curved from Camelon Road, past a gate lodge through a selection of specimen trees to the carriage sweep in front of the (south facing) entrance. The arboretum included Wellingtonia, beech, birch, yews and oak. The other drive was from Kilns Road and replaced an earlier straight service drive to the north. This drive followed the edge of the tree plantation and ran parallel with the main drive to the rear of the mansion.

To the rear of Arnotdale House there was a courtyard. The building to the north contained the stables to the west and associated (presumably groomsman's) accommodation in one of the pavilions, and the north-east pavilion contained a coach-house. It is thought that the area between the pavilions was the indoor swimming pool mentioned in the advertisement. To the north of these courtyard buildings was the doocot and some outbuildings, which Geoff Bailey suggests were a laundry and possibly a dairy. North-west of the house was the brick-built walled garden with an extensive range of greenhouses and hothouses along the northern interior wall with a sundial set before it. (Source: www.falkirkhistorysociety.co.uk).

1920 By December 1920 it was again on the market and by now included seven bedrooms and an additional bathroom. The advertisement read:

> The House, which contains 4 Public Rooms, 7 Bedrooms, 2 Dressing Rooms, 2 Bathrooms, Butler's Room and Pantry, stands in its own Grounds, extending to fully 11 Acres. The Offices, which include Stables, Coach-House, etc., are commodious. There is a Walled Garden, with Vineries, etc., and a Swimming Bath. The Ornamental Grounds and Shrubberies are tastefully laid out with rare and valuable Trees and Shrubs. The Grass Parks on the Property extend to about 5½ Acres. There are also 2 Lodges and a Cottage on the Property. (www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk)

Robert Dollar's Memoirs (Volume II) record the following:

> Arrived in Liverpool the sixth of July, and left immediately for Glasgow where I interviewed many of the big ship-owners and shipbuilders; thence to Newcastle, and saw as many as my time would permit. In London I got in close touch with the Shipping Board, especially Sir Joseph McLay, who was at the head of Government shipping. Was pleased to have the opportunity of visiting Falkirk, my native town, and actually gave up business for three days. But I was not exactly idle as I carefully looked over twelve acres of land in the town, called the Estate of Arnotdale. There were four houses on it, all rented, one of them a fine big mansion. I did not make it known, but I gave the Mayor enough money to buy it. Sometime after this I got a telegram that they had closed the transaction. It will make a fine park right in the town. There is a swimming bath on the place, and the rents they receive will make it self-supporting. All this was the result of taking three days off from work.

Excerpt from the *Falkirk Herald* in 1920:

> Arnotdale, a large residential property in Falkirk, with adjacent grounds extending to fully eleven acres, has been purchased for the benefit of the town through the generosity of Mr. Robert Dollar, San Francisco, a native of the town. The price paid for the property was £5600. The donor, who left Falkirk when a young man, is the founder of the Robert Dollar Line of steamships, plying chiefly between America and China. Mr. Dollar's previous benefactions to Falkirk include the Dollar Public Library, which formed the nucleus of the present Free Public Library; a gift of £3000 towards the erection of public baths m the town, and a handsome granite fountain which stands in the Victoria Public Park, as a memorial to Sir John De Graeme, who fell at the first Battle of Falkirk in 1298.

(Memoirs of Robert Dollar Vol II www.electricscotland.com)

1922 - 1950

Arnotdale Estate was renamed Dollar Park in honour of Robert Dollar. Works began to turn Dollar Park into a well-loved public space; the estate wall at Camelon Road was reduced in height and topped with railings, presumably to allow views into and out of the body of the park and encourage its use. It was opened to the public in May 1922. Four tennis courts were built to the north of the walled garden, and in the space to the east, where the possible orchard had been, there was a putting green. A residential cottage became a tennis pavilion (and kiosk), with a lavatory in the outbuildings north of the mansion house. Various amenities were created over the years. These included use of the house for office space by the burgh and also as a museum, which opened in 1926.

In 1926 the War Memorial was erected on the southern boundary of the park on a raised paved area; it is a cenotaph set in a small garden with pillars at each corner and smaller columns on each side, iron railings on three sides and a wide set of stone steps leading up to the memorial. The cenotaph has a sword on one side and a wreath-like drape on the front. Bronze plaques with inscriptions and names are placed on the adjacent cenotaph-like structures that form part of the memorial. The War Memorial Trust visited the site (Reference: 152107) in August 2014 and recorded it as being in poor overall condition.

Illus 8: Dollar Park War Memorial 2014 (https://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk).

In 1928, two Chinese lion statues were placed at the entrance to the main drive. These magnificent beasts were shipped from China by Robert Dollar and remain in position to this day. Other features of interest from this time include the bandstand on the west interior wall of the walled garden (which once had lots of

associated seating, being more of a theatrical space in reality) and a small zoo and aviary. During World War II an additional building was attached to the office block and was used by the Home Guard. (www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk).

1960s - present

The mansion continued to be used as the museum and when it closed in the 1960s, it was taken over by Age Concern, who continued to use it until the early 21st century. The house also contained a recording studio, used to produce a talking newspaper for the blind.

On the whole, interest and investment in Dollar Park declined from the 1950/60s onwards, and many of the features became neglected.

By the year 2000, however, interest was resurrected, and in 2012 a new bandstand was built. In 2010, the house was renovated at a cost of more than £600,000. In 2015 the Walled Garden was renovated through the Community Payback Scheme and re-opened as an informal leisure area (www.falkirklocalhistorysociety.co.uk). Over £1 million has been secured recently (2017) to make Arnotdale House a community hub.

6.0 Components of the Designed Landscape

The following designed landscape components still exist at Arnotdale House / Dollar Park. Illus 1 shows their locations.

Category	*Name*
Residential buildings & offices	Arnotdale House & Offices/Stables
Gardens	Pleasure Gardens Walled Garden
Drives & approaches	Burnbrae Road Approach Main Drive East Drive Pedestrian Approach
Agricultural & industrial features	Doocot

6.1 Residential buildings & offices

Arnotdale House & Offices/Stables (Illus 13)

Arnotdale House is first shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1864), a mansion house set at the centre of a compact but fairly detailed designed landscape, with offices to the north. By 1898 the house and stable complex have been joined together by an extension. The heated swimming bath referred to in the 1904 advertisement for sale (see section 5) may have been housed in the Offices/Stables, hence the new structure joining it to the house. The extension of the Offices/Stables by the time of the 1947 OS map may reflect its use by the Home Guard during World War II.

Today, Arnotdale House is owned by the local authority and is a listed building (category B). It is a two-storey mansion constructed from large ashlar blocks. Its south-facing façade is symmetrical with twin canted bays and first floor balconies and pediments, with a fluted Roman Doric column door-piece in the centre. To the rear, a cobbled courtyard is created by blocks of one and a half storeys with pedimented Venetian fronts (the west one has lost its pediment). A brick structure with a concrete roof was added to the north in 1939, and windows were inserted into the upper part of these walls after the war.

6.2 Gardens

Pleasure Gardens (Illus 9, 10, 14)

Arnotdale /Dollar Park was and is a relatively small space, and today the whole of it is effectively a pleasure garden. When the property was a private estate, the Pleasure Gardens were concentrated around the west and south sides of the mansion house, with grass parks to the north probably used for grazing horses. The grass parks became open space within the public park, and in 1947 the tennis courts and putting green were built in this area.

In 1864, the first edition OS map shows the Pleasure Gardens surrounding Arnotdale House as lawns interspersed with shrubs and trees, with a pleasure walk in front of the house leading to the office/stables and the walled garden and an ornamental fountain on the west side of the house, the base now used as a planter for flowers. Gillespie (1868, 35) describes a garden full of variety and colour (see section 5). Archive photographs in Callendar House show the fountain with rounded flowerbeds with roses and a network of pathways and pleasure walks.

Today, the gardens to the south of the house are predominantly laid to lawn with shrubs and specimen trees, including several varieties of rhododendron. The yew mentioned by Gillespie stills stands, immediately south-west of the house. To the west of the house, the statue of the 'Prodigal Son' by Lanark sculptor Robert Forrest is set among pathways and flowerbeds. Behind the War Memorial is a bust of Sheila McKechnie, a native of Camelon who campaigned for workers' safety and consumer rights; she died in 2001.

Illus 9: The Prodigal Son by Robert Forrest, Dollar Park, Falkirk

Illus 10: The Pleasure Gardens c 1922-32 (postcard from private collection).

Walled Garden (Illus 15-17, 20-21)

The Walled Garden is shown on the first edition OS map (1864) as symmetrically laid out with pathways and planting and what appear to be glasshouses and vineries on the south-facing interior wall. The number of glasshouses increased over subsequent decades. By 1947, the sundial had been moved to the centre of the garden, and a bandstand had been built against the east-facing interior wall to host theatrical shows and musical events.

The Walled Garden has been transformed several times and, while under the management of the Town Council, it was also used to propagate plants and shrubs for the town gardens in Falkirk. In 2015, after refurbishment under the Community Payback Scheme, the Walled Garden was opened as an informal leisure area (www.falkriklocalhistorysociety.co.uk). There is a seating area along the north wall which overlooks the gardens and bandstand. The roof structure comprises cast iron pillars recycled from the former buildings of Grahamston Railway Station by the Scottish Railway Preservation Society.

6.3 Drives & approaches

Burnbrae Road Approach (Illus 11)

The straight service drive leading from Burnbrae Road appears on the 1st edition OS map (1864), when it was at least partly tree-lined. It led to the courtyard between the house and the office/stables. By 1898 it had fallen out of use and a new East Drive built slightly further south.

When the service drive is removed, the east drive from Kiln Road is built with an associated lodge as can be seen on the 1898 OS map (see east drive below). At this time no entrance is indicated from Burnbrae Road. By the time the 1917 edition OS map was published there is a new entrance; this is the Burnbrae Road Approach. It was established between 1898 and 1913, leading straight along a former grass park boundary to a cottage that was built between 1864 and 1898, probably for the gardener. It was initially a service drive (replacing an earlier one that had fallen out of use by 1898), but when the property became Dollar Park it became the main route into the park from the east.

Today the Burnbrae Road Approach is surfaced with tarmac to allow both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and it leads to the tennis courts, which were refurbished in 2017.

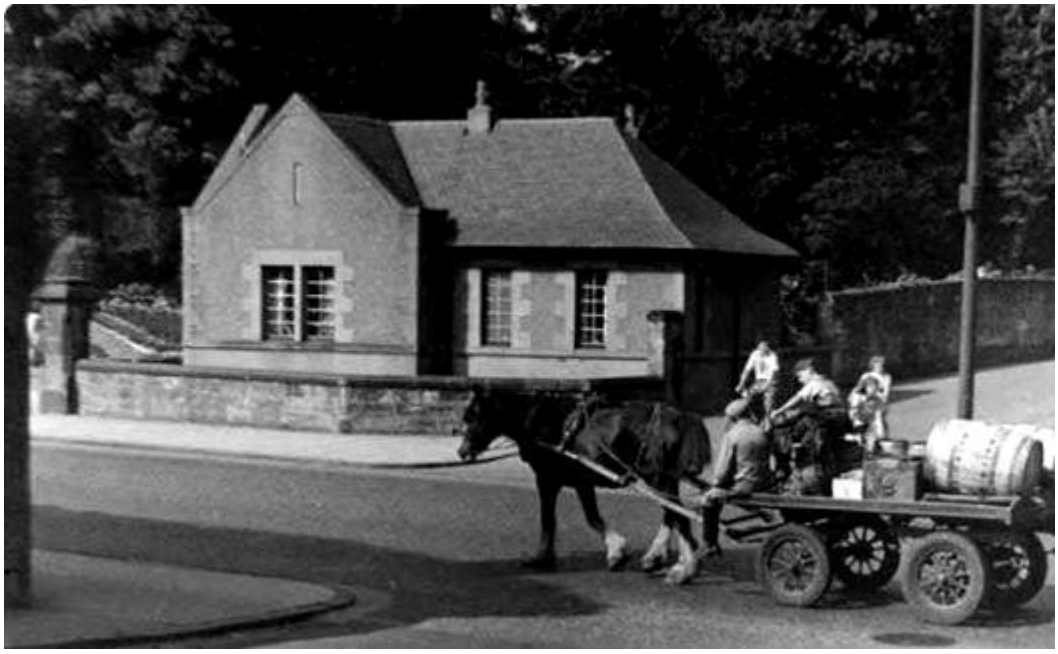
Illus 11: The Burnbrae Road Approach in the early 20th century (©Geoff Bailey).

East Drive (Illus 22)

The East Drive first appears on the 1898 OS map. It leads into the property from Kilns Road. The entrance is flanked by square, blond sandstone gate piers with square capitals on which are carved wild goats. Unfortunately the goats have lost their heads at some point in the past. The gate piers adjoin the estate boundary, which is of blond rubble with rounded coping stones. The route of the East Drive has remained the same from 1898 to the present, although the lodge originally associated with it was removed sometime after 1947. Today the East Drive is surfaced with tarmac and provides access for vehicular and pedestrian traffic into the park.

Main Drive (Illus 12)

The Main Drive extends into the park from the south-east and Camelon Road, curving through an area of planting and terminating in a carriage sweep in front of Arnotdale House. It has been the main approach to the mansion house since it was built. The lodge at the entrance is a private residence and was not photographed for the survey, but an archive photograph was identified (Illus 12). In 1928, Robert Dollar gifted two Chinese lion statues to the park and they were placed at this entrance to the park, where they remain to this day. The Main Drive is surfaced with tarmac as far as the mansion house and is suitable for vehicular and pedestrian access.



Illus 12: The Main Drive Lodge (private collection).

Pedestrian Approach

At the south-west corner of Dollar Park, a pedestrian approach leads to the network of pleasure walks and pathways. It appears on the 1947 4th edition OS map and was established to facilitate visitors' access to the park from Camelon Road on the west. Today it is surfaced with tarmac and still in use.

6.4 Agricultural & industrial features

Doocot

The Doocot was built shortly after the mansion in the 1830s and is shown on the 1st edition OS map (1864). It is a two-storey octagonal structure with two single-storey pavilions, set in a courtyard and enclosed by iron railings. The pavilions and lower courses of the doocot are built of rubble with quoins, and the doocot is built of ashlar masonry. It is likely that the pavilions were used as garden sheds or outbuildings. A sundial on the south side of the doocot dates it to 1834. The roof is slate, rising to an apex with a small entrance for the doves on the southern side. When the zoo and aviary were created in the earlier 20th century, the doocot was converted to house small animals. Today it is no longer in use and is in poor condition, despite being re-slated in the mid 1990s. The doocot is listed on the Buildings at Risk Register.

Illus 13: Arnotdale House and Main Drive (from the east).

Illus 14: The Pleasure Gardens with fountain and benches set among mature specimen trees and shrubs.

Illus 15: The bandstand in the Walled Garden.

Illus 16: Seating area in the Walled Garden, formerly part of the glasshouse.
The chimney stack of the greenhouse heating system/heated wall can be seen to rear.

Illus 17: A sensory garden in the Walled Garden.

Illus 18: Plaque at Main Drive entrance recording that the park was gifted by Robert Dollar.

Illus 19: One of two lions at the Main Drive entrance to the park.

Illus 20: East Drive entrance into Dollar Park from Kilns Road.

Illus 21: Detail of one of the wild goat sculptures.

Illus 22: East Drive entrance looking eastwards.

Illus 23: The Doocot.

7.0 Assessment of significance

7.1 The concept of significance

In the context of national policy, it is necessary to identify and understand the cultural significance of an aspect of the historic environment before its national importance can be considered. The concept of cultural significance, which is now widely accepted, was introduced in policy statements including the *Burra Charter* (2013). Assessment of significance is designed to help establish why a place or feature is considered to be important and why it is valued. It can be a subjective exercise – reflecting the moment in history when it is written and the state of knowledge about the site at that time. This means that the assessment of significance has the potential to change as knowledge and understanding of the site increase, as ideas and values change or as a result of alterations to the place or feature.

Designed landscapes which are considered to be of national importance and therefore inscribed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes must have a particular cultural significance - artistic, archaeological, historic, traditional, aesthetic, scientific and social - for past, present or future generations (*Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement*, June 2016).

The cultural significance of a designed landscape rests on three types of characteristics, as set out in the *HES Policy Statement* (2016).

1. **Intrinsic** - those inherent in the landscape and/or its constituent parts, including:
    - its condition
    - its research potential
    - the length and legibility of its apparent developmental sequence
    - its original or subsequent functions
2. **Contextual** - those relating to its place in the wider landscape or body of existing knowledge, including:
    - the rarity of the designed landscape or any part of it, assessed against its regional and national context
    - its relationship to other, similar landscapes in the vicinity
    - the relationship of the designed landscape and its constituent parts to the wider landscape setting
3. **Associative** - the historic, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the designed landscape, and vice versa, including:
    - its aesthetic attributes

- its significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used it, or their descendants
- its associations with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events

The grading of significance here is based on a ranking system developed from Kerr (2013) for conservation plans. It grades the **quality** of the landscape's intrinsic, contextual and associative characteristics; based on the grading of quality, it assesses cultural significance according to a **range**, as set out below.

Quality:	Outstanding	**Range:**	International
	High		National (Scotland)
	Some		Regional
	Little		Local

An assessment of local cultural significance does not mean that a designed landscape or its constituent parts are not worth conserving; indeed, sound conservation and management practices can enhance their significance.

7.2 The significance of the designed landscape at Arnotdale House / Dollar Park

Intrinsic value

As a compact designed landscape transformed into a public park, Arnotdale House / Dollar Park has some intrinsic value. Robert Dollar's purchase of Arnotdale estate and gifting it to Falkirk in 1920 meant its boundaries and character have been largely preserved. The B-listed house, walled garden and sundial, approaches, parkland and doocot all remain, although some components are in better condition than others. Much of the planting in the pleasure gardens survives and is well maintained, while the former grass parks have become public parkland. The 2015 restoration of the Walled Garden has enhanced the estate's intrinsic value.

Contextual value

Arnotdale House / Dollar Park developed as a small estate in an area with a long history of industrial activity and infrastructure - from the 'Kilns' of the 17th and 18th centuries to the 19th-century Camelon and Parkhouse Ironworks, the railway and the Forth-Clyde Canal. It has made and continues to make a valuable contribution to the Falkirk townscape, and thus is considered to have some contextual value.

Associative value

Arnotdale House / Dollar Park has high associative value. It has close historical associations with people who played key roles in the area's business and industrial history, including James Russel, grandfather of the founding partner of prominent local law firm Russel & Aitken, and Robert Barr, whose company went on to invent Irn-Bru. It also has an association with the Lanark sculptor Robert Forrest. Its later

association with Robert Dollar draws into focus the area's historical links to Empire, industry and capitalism and stories of emigration to the New World. Today it is valued locally for its recreational amenity value.

Cultural significance

Arnotdale House / Dollar Park has strong associations with Falkirk's business community (via the Russel family) and with the town's historical narratives around industry, Empire and emigration. This, together with its intrinsic and context values, give the designed landscape at least local significance.

8.0 Sources consulted

8.1 Historic maps

Cartographer	*Date*	*Title*	*Sheet*
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General William Roy	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland (©British Library)	Lowlands
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Ordnance Survey	Revised 1913, published 1917	Stirlingshire, 25 inch (3rd edition)	030.3 (Falkirk and Larbert)
Ordnance Survey	Revised 1944, published 1947	Stirlingshire, 25 inch (4th edition)	030.3 (Falkirk & Larbert)

Source: http://maps.nls.uk

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