The Development of the Gardens and Designed Landscape at KERSE HOUSE, CLYDE VALLEY

GLORIOUS GARDENS

Exploring our hidden gardens and forgotten landscapes

Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA

heritage lottery fund LOTTERY FUNDED

Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage

MAKING HERITAGE MATTER | NORTHLIGHT HERITAGE

Studio 406 | South Block | 64 Osborne Street | Glasgow | G1 5QH

web: www.northlight-heritage.co.uk | tel: 0845 901 1142

email: northlight@yorkat.co.uk

Kerse House, Clyde Valley

NGR: NS 8121 4204

Report on the development of the designed landscape

on behalf of

Scotland's Garden & Landscape Heritage

Registered Charity No SC034615

April 2017

Cover Plate: Lime Avenue, Kerse House

Report by: Peter Tucker and Ruth Thomas

Edited by: Lorna Innes and Olivia Lelong

Contents

Contents 3
Illustrations 4
1.0 Introduction to Glorious Gardens 6
2.0 Introduction to Kerse 6
3.0 Methods 6
4.0 Desk-based research results 7
4.1 Historic maps 7
4.2 Aerial Photographs 12
5.0 Timeline for the Kerse House Designed Landscape 13
6.0 Components of the Designed Landscape 15
6.1 Drives & approaches 16
6.2 Gardens 16
6.3 Residential & Service Buildings 17
6.4 Services 18
6.5 Policy parkland 18
6.6 Pleasure walks and other paths 19
6.7 Agricultural and industrial features 20
7.0 Assessment of significance 27
7.1 The concept of significance 27
7.2 The significance of the designed landscape at Kerse 28
8.0 Sources consulted 28
8.1 Historic maps 29
8.2 Aerial photographs 30
8.3 Other sources 30
9.0 Acknowledgements 30

Illustrations

Illus 1: The Kerse estate as shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Lanarkshire 031 04),with components marked in blue (map reproduced from http://www.maps.nls.uk). 5

Illus 2: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1757) (©British Library). 7

Illus 3: Forrest's (1816) The County of Lanark from Actual Survey. 8

Illus 4: Ordnance Survey six-inch (1st edition), Lanarkshire Sheet XXXI. Surveyed 1858, published 1864. 9

Illus 5: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (2nd edition), Lanarkshire 031.04. Surveyed 1896, published 1897. 10

Illus 6: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (4th edition), Lanarkshire 025.11. Surveyed 1941, published 1947. 11

Illus 7: Aerial photo taken in 1944-50. Source: maps.nls.uk 12

Illus 8: Kerse House, reproduced from Greenshields (1864). 14

Illus 9: Kerse House, reproduced from Irving (1864). 15

Illus 10: Entrance to Kerse House (Little Castle). 20

Illus 11: Garden area and boundary wall with tree belt beyond (looking north from glasshouses). 21

Illus 12: Kitchen Garden with Gardener's House in the distance (looking across north-east retaining wall). 21

Illus 13: Glasshouse remains. 22

Illus 14: Window rods and tanks among glasshouse debris. 22

Illus 15: Linear concrete features near glasshouses. 23

Illus 16: The stable block in the Home Farm Complex, before and after conversion. 24

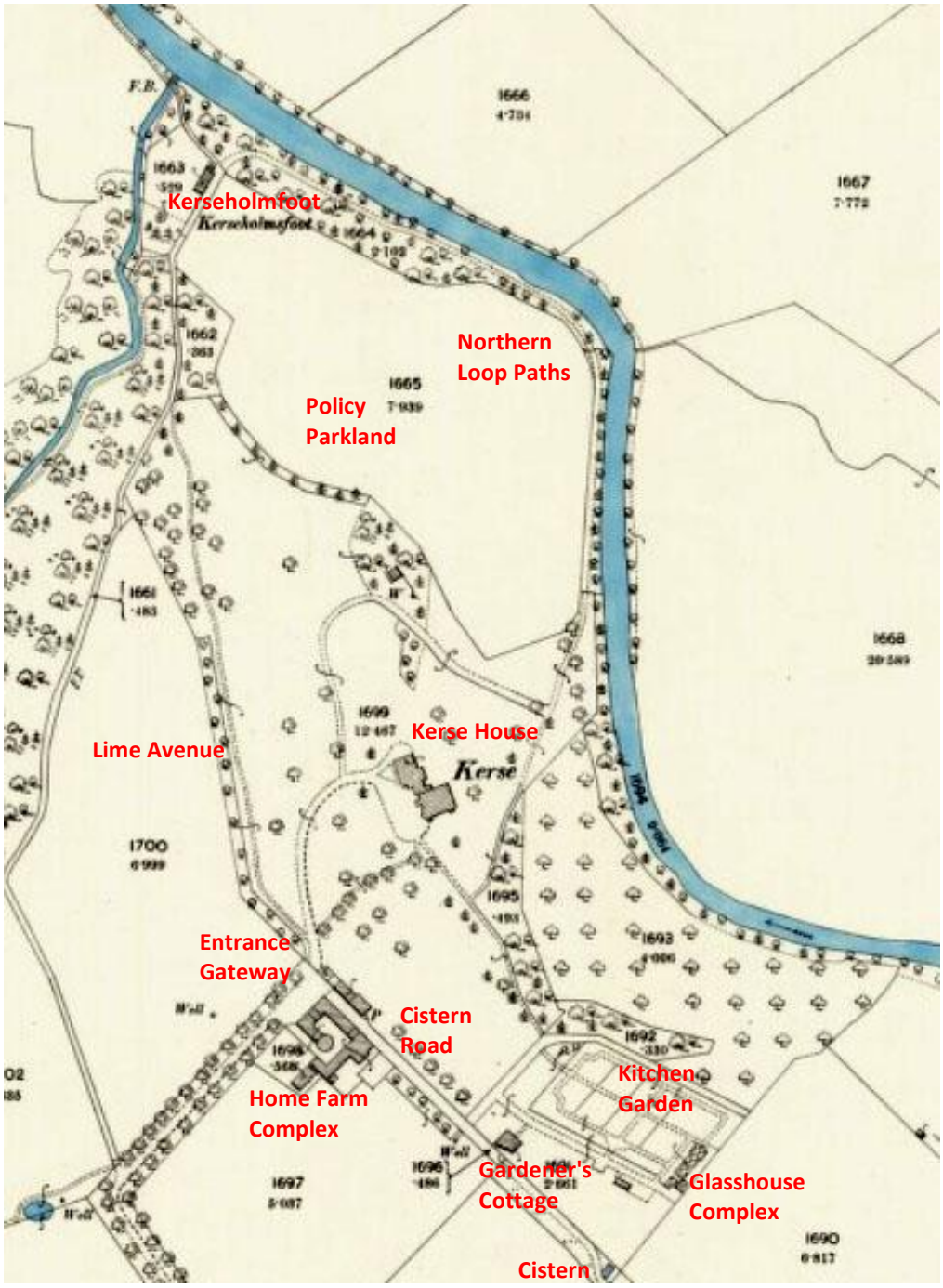
Illus 17: Cistern. 25

Illus 18: Northern tract of Policy Parkland showing overgrown boundary wall marking the line of the former direct path to Kerseholmfoot. 25

Illus 19: Start of riverside walk at the southern end of the Northern Loop Paths. 26

Illus 20: Narrow ridge on the Kersholmfoot to Lime Avenue path. 26

Illus 21: Examples of gate pillars. 27



Illus 1: The Kerse estate as shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey 25-inch map (Lanarkshire 031 04), 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 and the Heritage Lottery Fund, focused on gardens and designed landscapes (GDLs) in the Clyde & Avon Valley Landscape Partnership (CAVLP) area while a separate strand, funded by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), studied properties in the Falkirk local authority 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 has been written by Peter Tucker and Ruth Thomas, the volunteers who conducted the research and survey work. The assessment of significance (section 7) was conducted by Northlight Heritage based on their findings.

2.0 Introduction to Kerse

Kerse House (recently renamed Little Castle) is located at NGR: NS 81210 42048 in the parish of Lesmahagow. It is situated above a steep wooded slope that falls to the north and east to the River Nethan. Access to Kerse House is from the south-west by the village of Lesmahagow. The property is currently under private ownership and is used as a residence. Kerse home farm and other properties on the former estate are in separate private ownerships. The designed landscaped area on the former estate appears to be delineated by the River Nethan in the east and by two burns to the west and south respectively.

Name	Designation	Grade	ID	Web link
Kerse House	NA	NA	Canmore 199647	http://canmore.org.uk/site/199647

3.0 Methods

The study followed the project methodology, as detailed in the Glorious Gardens Method Statement (see project archive, held at the National Monuments Record of Scotland 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 January 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. The sources consulted are listed in section 7.

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

Kerse House appears on maps from the mid 18th century onward. This section summarises the changes to the designed landscape which are captured on each of the more informative historic maps. Section 5 draws out further evidence from the maps as it relates to specific components of the landscape.

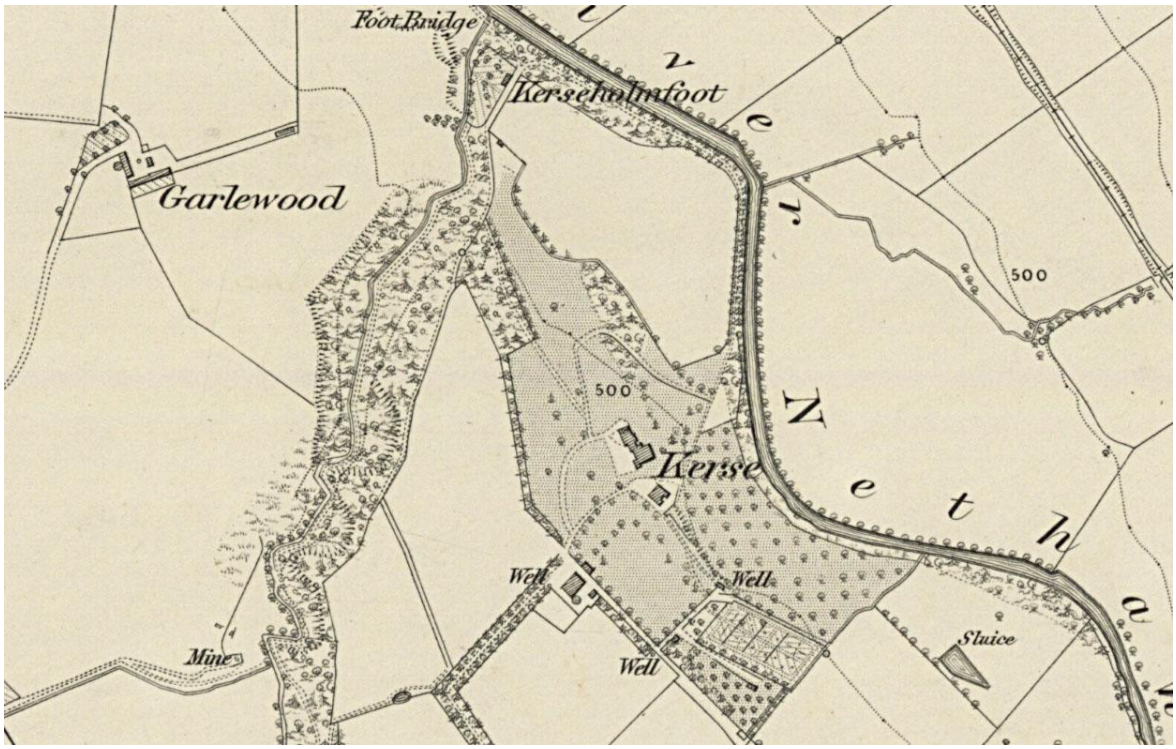
Illus 2: Roy's Military Survey of Scotland (1757) (©British Library).

Roy's map is the earliest map found to show Kerse or 'the Carse', which is depicted on the edge of one of two enclosures, the interiors of which appear not to be under cultivation. It is shielded from the Nethan Water by a tree belt. The surrounding land is under unenclosed cultivation.

Illus 3: Forrest's map (1816) The County of Lanark from Actual Survey.

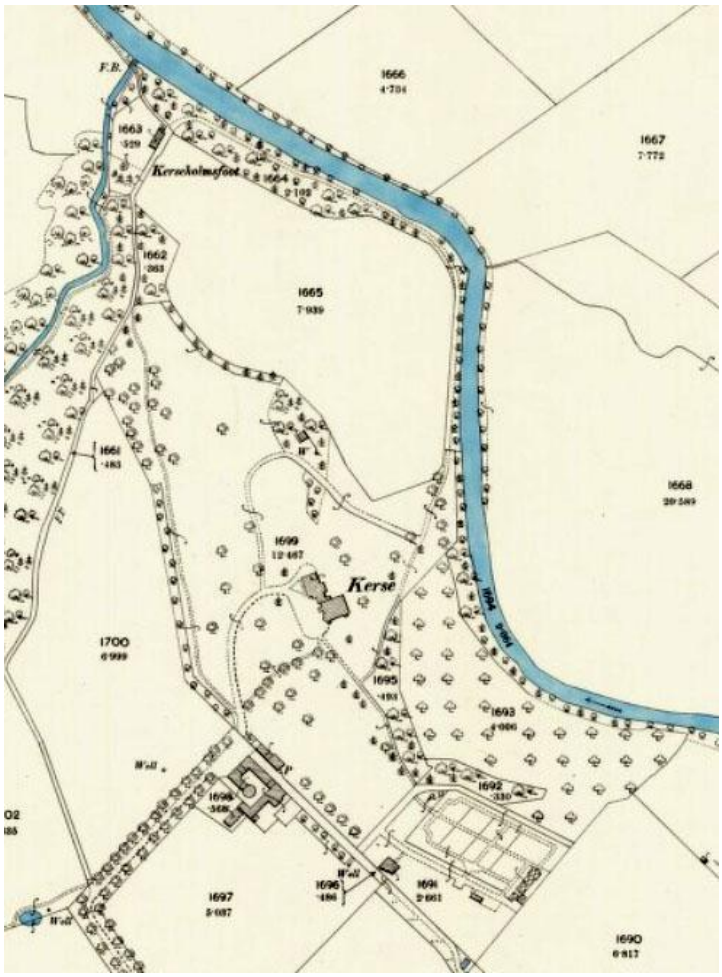
Forrest's map is the earliest found that shows any detailed features on the estate. It clearly shows an almost square Kitchen Garden to the south of the main house with a building (Gardener's House?) at its western corner. A tree-lined access road (Lime Avenue), complete with Entrance Lodge, leads to Kerse House. Paths link the garden to the access road and the house. There are further paths around three sides of the garden, one of which extends down a steep slope towards the river. Another path loops to the north (Northern Loop Path) from Kerse House down to the River Nethan and along it for a short distance before turning back to join the main access road. The residence, Kerseholmfoot (marked as Holm on the map), is located at the northern turning point on this loop path. The riverside part of the path is tree-lined. Further woodland extends along the burn at the western edge of the estate.

Illus 4: Ordnance Survey six-inch (1st edition), Lanarkshire Sheet XXXI. Surveyed 1858, published 1864.



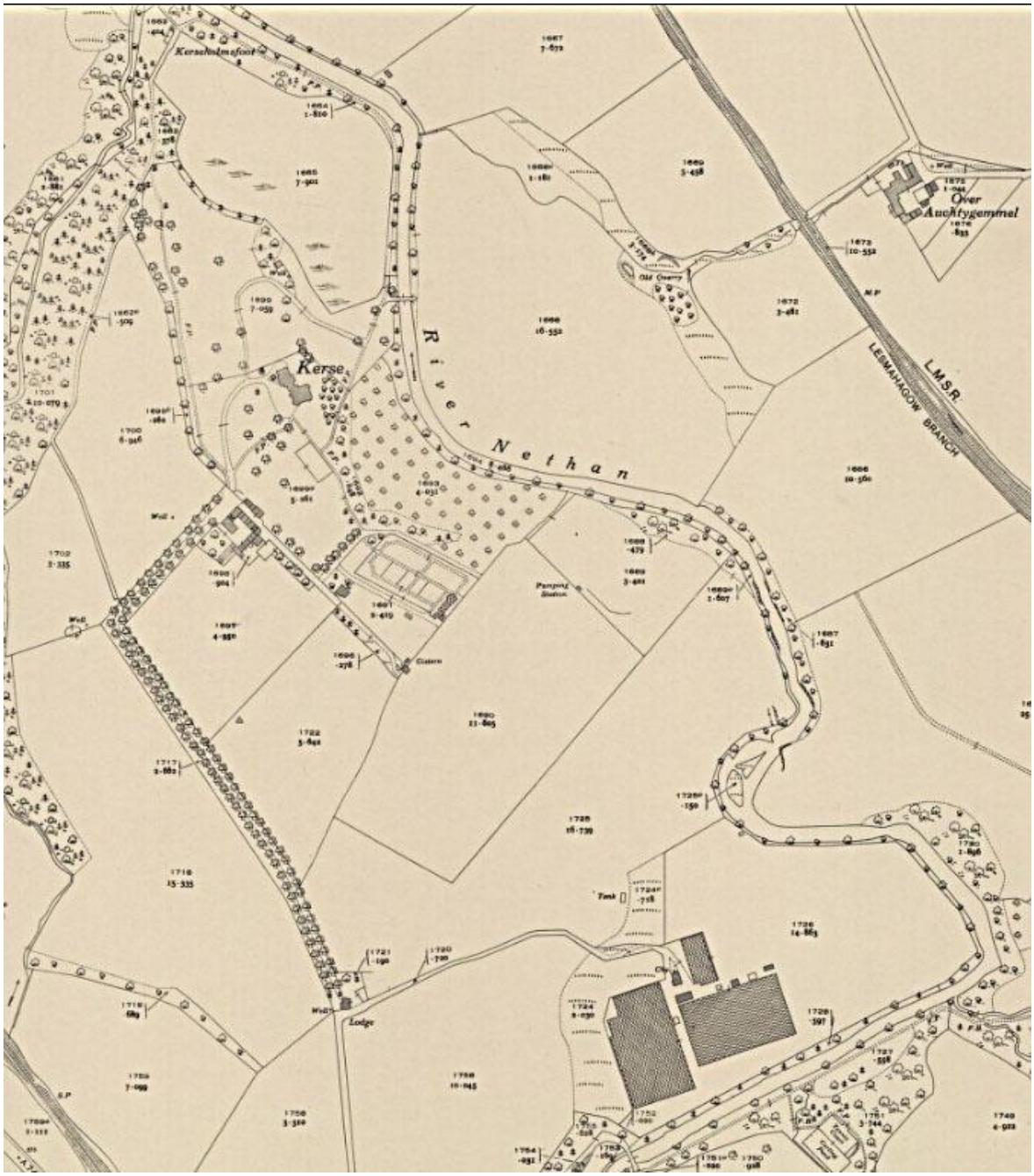
The area of designed landscape appears to be significantly reduced compared to Forrest's 1816 map. It is essentially confined to the areas immediately around the house and is flanked on most of its perimeter by tree belts. Enclosed fields have entirely replaced the formerly open areas of cultivation. The Kitchen Garden also appears smaller than Forrest's rendition, with the southern tranche of the 1816 garden now apparently a tree plantation; this could be a tree nursery or orchard, given its layout. Wider-spaced tree cover (maybe an orchard or other plantation) stretches between the garden and the river. Three wells are shown, two of which are close to the garden. A building (possibly a barn) stands at the end of the path along the southern edge of the garden. There is some indication of a boundary around the garden. On this map, Kerse House(s) consists of two buildings, each with its own access drive; these are probably the original and new houses, respectively. The two drives converge at the edge of the designed landscape, where there appears to be a yard containing further buildings (later identified as the Home Farm). The main access route to the garden runs from the Home Farm rather than the main house, though a subsidiary path links the garden to the house. The Northern Loop Path is still shown. Other paths lead more directly to Kerseholmfoot across the Policy Parkland, along the river Nethan and the western boundary burn. The residence at Kersehomfoot has its own small garden.

Illus 5: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (2nd edition), Lanarkshire 031.04. Surveyed 1896, published 1897.



There were major changes to Kerse House between 1858 and 1896. The smaller building at Kerse House (presumably the original house) had disappeared by 1896. The structures at Home Farm were significantly extended, perhaps as a result of adopting new farming methods, and they include a horse mill which indicates corn was being grown and processed. New glasshouses (Glasshouse Complex) were built along the south-western edge of the Formal Garden. The plantation by the Gardener's House disappeared, but a new plantation of mixed woodland appeared at the top of the slope above it. The well at the north-east corner of the garden is no longer depicted in 1896. The more direct footpath to Kerseholmfoot was re-routed to run along the parkland boundary. Apart from a cistern at the south end of the garden, the 1909 OS revision revealed very few and very minor changes from the 1896 map.

Illus 6: Ordnance Survey 25-inch (4th edition), Lanarkshire 025.11. Surveyed 1941, published 1947.



There were few further changes to the designed landscape between 1901 and 1947. The garden's internal structure appears to have been consolidated more towards its southern side, and there is a new building next to the cistern. The well by the Gardener's House is no longer shown. The area immediately

west of the Riverside Walk, previously shown without any landscape detail, is now identified as being marshy ground. The residence at Kerseholmfoot may no longer have been intact by this time, and the path along the burn is no longer shown. The only other significant changes are a new plantation near the main house and a rectangular feature (possibly a tennis court or croquet lawn) beside the path linking the house to garden, next to the site of the original house.

The map also shows a large new greenhouse complex to the south of the designed landscape, established after 1909 and accessed via the lodge.

4.2 Aerial Photographs

Illus 7: Aerial photo taken in 1944-50. Source: maps.nls.uk

The photo reveals internal details, not previously seen, in the garden area, and there may be some buildings in addition to the greenhouses. The rectangular feature identified on the 1941 map is also visible, but not with any internal detail. The former plantation area to the north-east of the garden may no longer be there.

5.0 Timeline for the Kerse House Designed Landscape

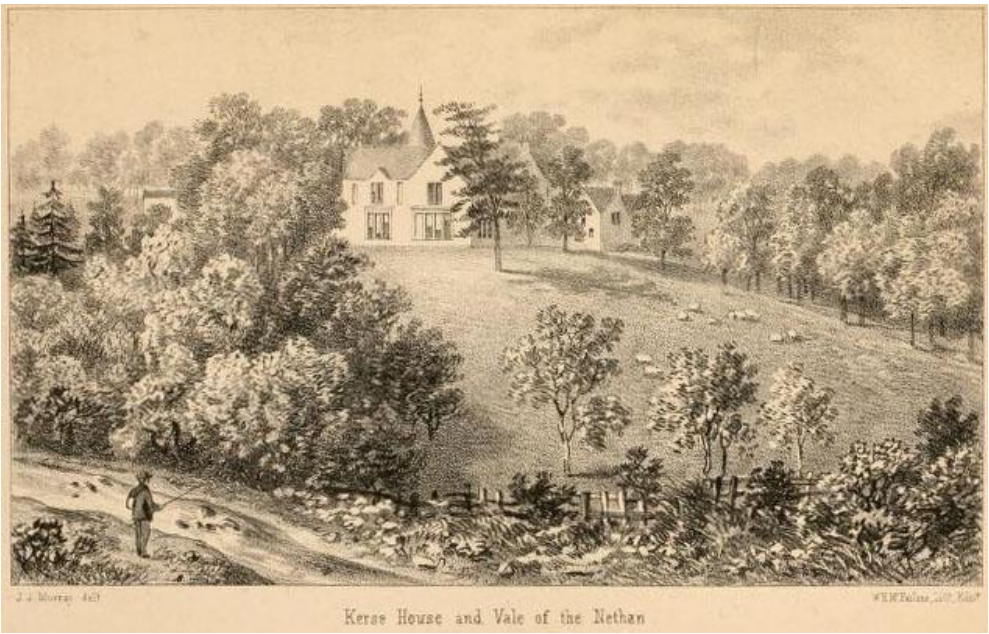
c 1200	The Kerse lands were originally named Glenane (*c* 1200) (Greenshields 1864).
1607 - 1793	In 1607, the Weirs of Stonebyres were reportedly in possession of the property. Ownership of Kerse remained with the Weirs for most of the 17th and 18th centuries. Within this period, the *Annals of the Parish of Lesmahagow* (Greenshields 1864) suggest that the Kerse estate stretched quite widely, though some of the outlying lands were sold during this time.
1793 - 1821	In 1793, the remainder of the property was purchased by James Ferrier and re-sold in 1797 to a wine merchant, John Jamieson of Leith. Jamieson sold the property in 1801 to William Clerk of the Custom House, Glasgow (who is also recorded as proprietor on Forrest's 1816 map).
1821	In 1821, Kerse was purchased by the author of the *Annals of the Parish of Lesmahagow*, John Greenshields. It included a portion of the common muir, called Dunside, which was subsequently sold. John Greenshields was designated the 1st Laird of Kerse. It remained in Greenshields family hands until the death of the 3rd Laird, James John, in 1913.
1857	The original house at Kerse was demolished by Greenshields in 1857 and a new one erected in the Elizabethan style, from designs by the architect William Spence of Glasgow. George Vere Irving writes in *The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire* (1864) that 'the extreme beauty of the locality has made Kerse, from earliest records, a favourite abiding-place for the magnates of the district' [and] 'that the present owner recently raised a mansion of size and appearance worthy of the district.'
1913	Soon after 1912, James Gilchrist bought Kerse House – described as 'a twenty roomed grand grey-stoned house.' Gilchrist's family business was fruit growing, which was expanded at Kerse House by installing greenhouses. His younger son continued the proprietorship after James' death. Their business eventually declined and Kerse House was sold (no date or details given). www.mykidsancestors.com/Hepburn_History/Hepburn_Related.../The_**KERSE**.pdf Affleck (2010) in *Bygone Lesmahagow* describes Kerse House as 'one of the estates with a large spread of tomato houses and extensive fields of soft fruit' which provided significant local employment, though the dates of such activities are not given. Local informants

report that chrysanthemums were also grown - perhaps in the large greenhouses shown to the south of the designed landscape on the Ordnance Survey 25 inch map sheet 031 04 (1947).

1980s

According to a web-based source, by 1987 Kerse House had degenerated to become a storage barn for the farm. In that year it was sold and later renamed 'Little Castle'. The new owner set about restoring the property. Home farm and the outer areas of the designed landscape have since passed into separate private ownership. www.mykidsancestors.com/Hepburn_History/Hepburn_Related.../The_**KERSE**.pdf

Illus 8: Kerse House, reproduced from Greenshields (1864).



Illus 9: Kerse House, reproduced from Irving (1864).

6.0 Components of the Designed Landscape

The following designed landscape components still exist at Kerse House. Illus 1 shows their locations.

Category	**Name**
Drives & approaches	Lime Avenue Entrance Gateway Lodge
Gardens	Kitchen Garden Glasshouse Complex Gardener's House
Residential & service buildings	Kerse House Home Farm Complex Kerseholmfoot
Services	Cistern & Pumping Station
Policy parkland	Policy Parkland
Pleasure walks & other paths	Northern Loop Paths Cistern Road

Agricultural & industrial features	Field gates Horticultural infrastructure

This section summarises the historical development of each component and describes its current character and condition.

6.1 Drives & approaches

Lime Avenue (Illus 10)

The main approach to Kerse (designated here as Lime Avenue) was established before 1816 (see Forrest's 1816 map, illus 3). The map shows this approach, tree-lined on both sides, passing from a lodge through policy parkland all the way to Kerse House. However from the 1858 OS map onwards the main section of the drive passed through what may have been agricultural land to reach a more formal boundary adjacent to the Home Farm, which had been built during the interim period.

Today, the approach road appears largely unchanged from its historic form. It is a metalled road lined on both sides with mature lime trees (see cover plate). Stone pillared gates on both sides lead onto fields.

Entrance Gateway (Illus 10)

The entrance gateway to Kerse House (now renamed Little Castle) comprises three hexagonal sandstone gate pillars delineating separate vehicular and (former pedestrian) entrances. The pillars are set along a low stone wall topped with ornamental ironwork (illus 10). The internal driveway linking the entrance to the house follows the same path taken since the house was constructed, and remains unmetalled.

Lodge

The current lodge at the end of the drive bears an 1870 date plaque indicating that it may not be the original. The lodge is built of yellow sandstone, now with a tiled roof and newer extensions to the rear.

6.2 Gardens (illus 11-15)

Kitchen Garden, Gardener's Cottage and Glasshouse Complex (Illus 11, 12)

An area interpreted as a garden has been in existence since before the 1816 mapping. Its primary function is unknown, but its distance from the house and the fact that it was more closely linked with Home Farm would suggest it was a kitchen garden rather than a pleasure garden. By the time of the 1858 OS mapping, the structure of the garden was well defined with an access point at its north end leading to rectilinear internal pathways. This structure persisted in the main until at least 1941. Glasshouses were built along the south-east edge of the garden between 1858 and 1896. The Gardener's Cottage was also erected during this period, though there is some evidence that there may have been an older building in this location (see Illus 3 and 4). A further small building (barn?) is also shown on the Roy and Forrest maps of 1757 and 1816, respectively, lying immediately to the south-west of the structured part of the garden.

The Kitchen Garden now is largely flat, gently sloping open fields punctuated with some recent sapling growth and with trees encroaching around the borders, particularly in the south-west corner. The main part of the garden can still be discerned as a discrete entity within the boundary tree belts, but there are no obvious signs of its historical internal layout. The north-east boundary of the garden is defined by a low wall topped with the remains of iron railings.

The Gardener's Cottage still stands and is occupied. It is stone-built, in good repair but awaiting renovation. A stone-built barn, possibly recently repaired, still stands to the west of the garden.

The remains of four glasshouses, comprising foundations, brick base walls and some collapsed timber roof supports, are still evident, along with some glass fragments, mechanical rods for opening windows and rusty metal troughs, presumably for watering. There are also remains of two low brick buildings within the Glasshouse Complex, possibly a shed and furnace, respectively, together with a largely intact brick chimney. Today, trees grow freely among the remains. To the north of the glasshouses there are a series of long, thin, parallel concrete structures lying prone or partially buried. Their function remains uncertain; they could be some kind of bed edging.

6.3 Residential & service buildings

Kerse House

The first record of a residence at Kerse House was dated 1607. In 1857, a new house was built and the original house was taken down. The two houses may have co-existed for a short time around 1858 (as apparently captured on the 1858 OS map).

The external façade appears to be in good external repair and retains the look of its portrayal in the 1864 engraving (see Illus 8). A detailed survey was not undertaken.

Home Farm Complex (Illus 16)

The first buildings and a yard were constructed at the Home Farm site between 1816 and 1858. The buildings were significantly extended by 1896, with multiple farm units depicted on the later maps. Units are believed to have included a stable block and coach house; they could also have housed cattle.

The Home Farm buildings underwent extensive modernisation together with new construction and conversion into dwelling houses c 2008. A two-storey building on the north-west facing side shows the former archway leading to what was the stable yard, now a courtyard. The single-storey stables on the other sides of the courtyard were also converted into residences. Illus 16 shows elements of the stables prior to and after conversion. Stone pillars for field gates to the surrounding agricultural areas still stand along the Lime Avenue and within the Home Farm Complex. The pillars are of yellow sandstone, mostly complete with the integral ironwork for gate hanging.

Stone-built cottages, including one that is anecdotally known as the coachman's cottage, have stood opposite the Home Farm stables block since before 1858. A dwelling house formed from two former cottages stands there today. This house was modernised along with the stable block around 2008.

Kerseholmfoot

The house at Kerseholmfoot was built prior to 1858. It was no longer depicted as a built structure on the 1941 map. Only the remains of the lower parts of the walls are present at the site today.

6.4 Services

Cistern & Pumping Station (Illus 17)

The OS mapping from 1858 onwards shows a small, rectangular water feature outside the Kitchen Garden, at the end of the path (Cistern Road) extending south from the gardener's house. The 1909 survey also shows a cistern adjacent to that feature, across the boundary towards the garden.

The Cistern is still evident today as a grass-covered, brick-built, barrel-vaulted chamber (illus 17). There is a spring adjacent to it and the ground is boggy at the site where the water feature was shown on the earlier maps.

Forrest's 1816 map (Illus 3) shows a path along the north-east edge of the garden extending to the area identified on the 1858 OS map as a pond and sluice, and on later editions as a Pumping Station.

The remains of the pond are now visible as a boggy area. Today, there is no evidence of a pumping station, only a rectangular, brick-built underground tank containing clear water. The entrance is capped by a loose metal plate.

6.5 Policy parkland

Policy Parkland (Illus 18)

The Policy Parkland extended contiguously both to the north of the house and southwards from the house to the Kitchen Garden. The engravings of 1864 show lawns around the front of the house and from the rear of the house to the river (Illus 8 and 9); these would have offered vistas to the river and beyond. Historically the parkland was bounded by hedgerows or shelter belts. Shelter belts were also planted to crown the top edge of the slopes leading down to the river. Historic maps also show a small building and well among the trees to the north-east of the house.

A new boundary to Kerse House is now in place immediately to the north of the house, with the northern tract of the former Policy Parkland now in separate ownership. While a field survey of the southern parkland area was not undertaken, it was noted that an area under lawn with minor ornamental stonework still exists in front of the house and that any vista to the rear may be compromised by modern planting. A number of mature specimen trees (beech, chamaecyparissus type evergreens and others) are visible in the area between Kerse House and the Kitchen Garden.

The northern tract of parkland now features some modern planting of broadleaved trees, mainly birch, giving way to older beeches and limes. Remains of a low stone boundary wall can still be seen along the western edge of the northern parkland area; it is overgrown in places by a line of mature beeches (illus 18). The remains of a building, though not the well itself, are still present at the top of the slope to the north-east. The purpose of the well building is not clear, though it is noted that the window position did provide a vista across the River Nethan.

6.6 Pleasure walks and other paths

Northern Loop Paths (Illus 19, 20)

Forrest's 1816 map (Illus 3) shows a path looping in an anticlockwise direction, from Kerse down to the river, along it and then returning to join the Lime Avenue near its dog-leg bend. The later OS maps also show connections to other paths around the loop's northern turning point at Kerseholmfoot, including a communication route north along the river. It is probable that the Northern Loop Paths served primarily as pleasure walks, though to some extent they would have also provided some access to the Kerse from the north. The path from the house down to the river was historically of open aspect. The riverside walk was flanked by trees along the river edge, with the northern and return sections of the loop being bounded by more heavily wooded areas. A more direct path provided communication through the Policy Parkland between Kerse House and Kerseholmfoot, while a parallel path followed a more circuitous route along the western boundary burn back to the Lime Avenue.

Current paths still trace the original courses of the main Northern Loop Paths. The Kerse to Nethan section, while recently maintained, provides solely private access to and from the back gate of Little Castle. The eastern section of the path now passes through a conifer plantation. The riverside walk and main return section of the loop now form part of South Lanarkshire Council's core path network. These sections link with the riverside path to the north and with a more modern pathway extension that follows the river to the south.

The riverside walk runs for around 400 m, bordered on one side by the Nethan and on the other by the remains of a wall with an overgrown beech hedge on top and some residual iron fencing. It is flanked by an avenue of large mature trees, including Douglas firs, poplars and very large Scots pine with smaller oak, beech and limes (illus 19). There are also occasional rhododendrons along the riverbank. The entrance from the Policy Parkland to the south end of the riverside walk is marked by stone gate pillars. The main Kerseholmfoot to Lime Avenue return section is a well-used, hard-packed path that starts with a very steep ascent, crosses a short, narrow ridge showing signs of erosion (illus 20), and passes through an old beech woodland giving way to a hedged garden on one side and fairly newly planted ornamental trees on the other.

Narrow roads or paths have been shown running along but outside the boundary of the garden area since the earliest mapping. These paths did not communicate with the garden itself and are most likely to have been designed as access paths to the surrounding agricultural fields.

Cistern Road (Illus 21)

A road, initially metalled, follows the path of the old road by the coach house, through a gate where the road becomes unmetalled to the Gardener's Cottage. The road now terminates at a second gate into a field. While the road is no longer present past this point, a slight ridge in the grass alongside its old path depicts the line of the former field boundary. Two isolated stone gate pillars sit on this boundary line. The road to the north-east of the garden is no longer present, though a stone gate pillar does mark its former entrance to the fields to the south.

6.7 Agricultural and industrial features

Large greenhouses were erected at the southern end of the Kerse estate during the early 20th century (shown on the 1941 OS map, Illus 6).

Few remnants of the horticultural infrastructure still exist. The former greenhouse site is now overplanted by a modern conifer plantation, with only the collapsed remains of a brick chimney visible. A short distance to the north, close to the river bank, stands a small, roofless brick and collapsed concrete structure. It is thought to have been a facilities block for the horticultural workers.

Illus 10: Entrance to Kerse House (Little Castle).

Illus 11: Garden area and boundary wall with tree belt beyond (looking north from glasshouses).

Illus 12: Kitchen Garden with Gardener's House in the distance (looking across north-east retaining wall).

Illus 13: Glasshouse remains.

Illus 14: Window rods and tanks among glasshouse debris.

Illus 15: Linear concrete features near glasshouses.

Illus 16: The stable block in the Home Farm Complex, before and after conversion.

Illus 17: Cistern.

Illus 18: Northern tract of Policy Parkland showing overgrown boundary wall marking the line of the former direct path to Kerseholmfoot.

Illus 19: Start of riverside walk at the southern end of the Northern Loop Paths.

Illus 20: Narrow ridge on the Kersholmfoot to Lime Avenue path.

Illus 21: Examples of gate pillars.

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.

In order to be considered to be of national importance and therefore inscribed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, 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 Kerse House

Intrinsic value

The designed landscape at Kerse House has some intrinsic value through the retention of the Lime Avenue, policy parkland (although now divided under different owners), specimen trees, paths and the mid 19th-century house. The remnants of the cistern and pumping station are evidence for the estate's

water management system. The development of the designed landscape is legible through documentary evidence, mainly historic maps and 19th-century engravings.

Contextual value

The Kerse House designed landscape contributes to the landscape character of the Nethan valley, and has links to traditions of early modern fruit growing in the wider area. It is considered to have some contextual value.

Associative value

The designed landscape has high associative value, given its associations with the Weir family, who also owned Stonebyres; with John Greenshields, the Lanarkshire historian who owned it during the 19th century, and with the Glasgow architect William Spence. It also has strong associations with large-scale, 20th-century fruit production.

Cultural significance

For its associations with prominent local families and figures, the contributions it makes to landscape character along the River Nethan and the intrinsic value of its surviving components, Kerse House is assessed as having local significance.

8.0 Sources consulted

8.1 Historic maps

Cartographer	*Date*	*Title*	*Sheet*
General William Roy	1747-55	Military Survey of Scotland (©British Library)	Lowlands
William Forrest	1816	The County of Lanark from Actual Survey	
Ordnance Survey	Surveyed 1858, published 1864	Lanarkshire six-inch (1st. edition)	XXXI
Ordnance Survey	Surveyed 1896, published 1897	Lanarkshire, 25-inch (2nd edition)	031 04
Ordnance Survey	Revised 1941, published 1947	Lanarkshire, 25-inch (4th edition)	031 04

Source: http://maps.nls.uk

8.2 Aerial photographs

Air Photos 1994 - 1950
Source: http://maps.nls.uk

8.3 Other sources

Websites

http://www.mykidsancestors.com/Hepburn_History/Hepburn_Related.../The_KERSE.pdf

Books, articles and grey literature

Affleck, T 2010 *Bygone Lesmahagow*. Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing Ltd.

Greenshields, J B 1864 *Annals of the Parish of Lesmahagow*.

Historic Environment Scotland 2016 *Policy Statement*. (https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/)

Irving, G V 1864 *The Upper Ward of Lanarkshire*.

Kerr, J S 2013 *The Seventh Edition Conservation Plan: A guide to the preparation of conservation plans for places of European cultural significance.* Australia ICOMOS http://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Conservation-Plan-7th-Edition.pdf

9.0 Acknowledgements

Thanks go to Mrs Hamilton of Kerse Farm for providing us with an insight into the recent history and to The National Library of Scotland Maps Library.