

Case information

Case ID	300009416
File Reference	HGPI/P/SM/3
Name of Site	Hamilton Palace

Local Authority	South Lanarkshire Council
National Grid Reference	NS 72690 56316
Designation No. (if any)	GDL00207
Designation Type	Garden and designed landscape
Case Type	Removal

Received/Start Date	2014/2015
Decision Date	28/04/2016

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Hamilton Palace no longer meets the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory of gardens and designed landscapes. The garden / designed landscape has been removed from the Inventory.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Hamilton Palace was added to the Inventory in 1987. There has been no known review of the site since that date. Other designations on or related to the site include:

Listed Buildings:

- Hamilton Mausoleum (LB 34518) at category A

- Estate Office and Riding School, now the ‘Low Parks Museum’ (LB 34521) at category A

Scheduled Monuments:

- Hamilton Low Parks Motte (Scheduled Monument No 10726) is a medieval motte and bailey castle mound.

Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes:

- Chatelherault (GDL000101) adjoins the Hamilton Palace landscape to the south and is part of the historic Hamilton estates. Chatelherault is included as a separate entry on the Inventory and does not form part of the current review of Hamilton Palace (GDL000207).

Inventory of Historic Battlefields:

- Part of the 1679 ‘Battle of Bothwell Bridge’ battlefield site (BTL5) is located at the north end of the designated area.

Other designations:

- A 105 hectare area of wetland and woodland partially located within the north of the site is nationally designated by Scottish Natural Heritage as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Hamilton Low Parks – SSSI 761).

2.2 Development Proposals

There are currently no known development proposals that would affect the consideration of this review.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

Hamilton Palace was considered for removal from the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes as part of the Inventory Refresh Project, 2014-15.

The site was visited on 16/03/2015. Photographs of the area were taken from the public realm for assessment purposes.

We consulted on the proposed removal of the site from the Inventory on 01/02/2016. We issued consultation letters to South Lanarkshire Council and invited comments from approximately 800 property owners or occupiers within the Inventory boundary. 14 occupiers / owners requested a copy of the report on handling. Of these, five had further questions about the implications of removal and/or noted concern about the proposed removal of the designation.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes was carried out, see **Annex A**.

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf>

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory*

Hamilton Palace

1. Description

1.1 Type of site

A former designed estate landscape on a monumental north-south axis, now largely altered by later development.

1.2 Main phases of landscape development

Circa 1700-1900

1.3 Location and Setting

The Hamilton Palace designed landscape covers approximately 1000 acres (400 ha) of the River Clyde valley flood plain, to the immediate northeast of the town of Hamilton, South Lanarkshire. The boundary of the designated area largely follows the extent of the Hamilton Palace 'Low Parks' estate as shown on the 1896 Ordnance Survey map. Following demolition of Hamilton Palace by 1927, considerable change has occurred in the Low Parks area, with the present landscape now broadly characterised by infrastructural, commercial and residential redevelopment. Undeveloped areas of the landscape are predominantly wetland with some mixed woodland plantation to the north. The M74 motorway passes through the designated area from southeast to northwest with a large intersection raised on pylons above the 'North Haugh' and 'South Haugh' areas of wetland.

Hamilton Low Parks (now part of the Strathclyde Country Park) is the principal green space within the designated area. The River Clyde and Strathclyde Loch border the designated area to the northeast. Two areas of tree plantation, established during the 19th century, are located at the northwest of the site. There are further areas of wetland to the north of the designated area. The underlying rocks are carboniferous and coal-bearing and have been extensively mined.

Distant hills are visible from vantage points within the designated area to the north and east, and more immediately to the south towards the associated landscape at Chatelherault (q.v. Inventory GDL 000101).

1.4 Site History

From the 14th century, Hamilton was the principal seat of the dukedom of Hamilton and Brandon, which was among Scotland's most eminent noble families and major landowners.

The south front of Hamilton Palace was erected in 1695 on the site of an earlier castle. It was probably around this time that a strong central axis, or 'Grand Avenue' was begun, extending the full length of the park at a distance of more than three miles north to south.

In 1708, Alexander Edward drew up a major landscape scheme for the Hamilton estate, entitled, 'Map with some Alterations and Additions to the Gardens, Courts, Avenues, Plantations and Inclosures of Hamilton'. Alexander Edward (1651-1708) was a leading landscape designer of the period who had previously worked on formal schemes with Sir William Bruce at Kinross House and Balcaskie House in the 1680s. Although known mainly for his role as an assistant to Sir William Bruce, Edward also worked independently and attained renown in his own right as an architect and designer of grand, formal landscaping schemes (Dictionary of Scottish Architects).

At Hamilton Palace, it remains uncertain to what extent the scheme proposed for by Edward was implemented, or which elements of the plan predate his involvement. A manuscript in the Hamilton archives, for example, records that the northern half of the avenue had already been planted prior to Edward's involvement (Inventory record, Hamilton Palace 1987).

Historic map and estate plan evidence of the 18th and 19th centuries indicate that the Grand Avenue remained a key defining feature of the landscape until at least 1900. General Roy's military survey of the mid-18th century shows a framework of tree-lined diagonal avenues radiating northwards from the palace (Roy 1747-1755). These are evident on Edward's 1708 proposal but may also predate Edward's involvement at Hamilton. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries Hamilton Palace was among the largest formal designed landscapes in Scotland, extending around six kilometres across the River Avon to the southern half of the park at Chatelherault (q.v. Inventory GDL 000101).

The tenth Duke, who succeeded in 1819, made use of the wealth generated by the Hamilton's ownership of the Lanarkshire coalfields to carry out substantial aggrandisement of the palace and reworking of the garden grounds. The most significant surviving feature dating from this period is the Hamilton Mausoleum (circa 1850), one of the grandest and most costly private tombs in the country. After 1882, the coal mines surrounding the palace were found to be causing subsidence to the foundations of Hamilton Palace. The building was demolished between 1921 and 1927, resulting in the loss of the main focal point of the designed landscape. During the 1970s the course of the River Clyde was redirected and the artificial Strathclyde Loch was created.

Commercial, infrastructural, industrial and residential redevelopment across the estate during the 20th century saw the building of the Hamilton Palace Retail Park and a sports complex on the site of the palace; and the relocation of the Hamilton Park Racecourse and the Strathclyde Park Golf Course. Other building developments included Hamilton College, the Holy Cross High School, Hamilton Football Stadium, Hamilton Ice Rink, Hamilton motorway service station, Hamilton sewage works, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Services and more than 800 residential dwellings.

1.5 Landscape Components

Architectural features

The principal surviving architectural features directly associated with the former Hamilton Palace estate are the Hamilton Mausoleum (LB 34518) and the former Estate Office and Riding School (LB 34521), now the 'Low Parks Museum'. Both are listed at category A.

Avenues and vistas

The central, tree-lined axial route or 'Grand Avenue' at Hamilton, which extended for more than 4000 metres across the Hamilton Low Parks landscape between around 1700 and 1950, is now substantially felled and overlaid by later development. A 370 metre long avenue of trees, on the alignment of the 'Grand Avenue', has been planted (circa 2000) as part of the Palace Grounds Retail Park landscaping. While the replanted avenue is narrower than the former avenue and the entrance to the retail park bisects the replanted avenue at the midway point, the young trees continue to frame the distant vista of the former hunting lodge at Chatelherault (q.v Inventory) on higher ground to the south.

Woodland

Truncated areas of woodland known as the Barmichael and Back Muir plantations are situated to the north of the designated area. Compared with the more extensive woodlands depicted on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1898, the plantations are reduced in size, owing mainly to later built development. The surviving trees are predominantly broadleaf (largely beech and sycamore) and of 19th century origin.

2. Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (SHEP, 2011) pp81-82

Criteria for determining whether a garden or designed landscape is of 'national importance' for inclusion on the Inventory under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 [<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents>]

To be included on the Inventory, it is generally the case that the greater the number of outstanding or high values, the more important the site. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions. The condition of the site today and its overall integrity are important elements of the selection process.

[Link to Scottish Historic Environment Policy 2011](#)

2.1 Value as individual work of art in its own right

Value: Some

The Hamilton Palace landscape is not considered to have high or outstanding value in this category of assessment in its present form.

(i) There are comparatively few consistently positive contemporary accounts of the Hamilton Palace landscape and gardens known during the 18th century or 19th century to suggest that the landscape was particularly valued as a work of art in its own right by contemporary society. An account of the Hamilton Palace grounds written in 1706 by the renowned author and travel writer Daniel Defoe notes that 'the gardens are finely design'd, but I cannot say they are so finely finish'd, or so nicely kept as those at Drumlanrig, particularly the courtyard. The canals and ponds, design'd with some other gardens laid out in the first plan, are not compleated [*sic.*], and some not so much as begun upon' (Defoe, p.81). In 1791 the Statistical Account of Scotland reported that the town surrounding the palace had 'been gradually purchased and pulled down [...] for the extension and improvement of the pleasure grounds' (p.180), indicating that landscaping in the environs of the palace was progressing for much of the 18th century. Half a century later, garden historian J.C. Loudon recorded that 'nothing has been done to the grounds around the house, or at least nothing at all worthy of such a building' (1842: 339) and that 'the garden scenery at Hamilton bears no sort of relation to the palace and is evidently a mere temporary affair'. (*ibid.* p.401). Rather than describing the landscape, the majority of observations from the 18th and 19th century focus on the momentous scale of the palace and its large collection of art works.

Based on our current knowledge of the site, there is little available evidence to suggest the layout of the grounds at Hamilton Palace set trends for subsequent landscape design in Scotland. During the 18th century, this type of grand axial design became less fashionable as more informal, picturesque landscape design grew in popularity.

(ii) While Hamilton Palace is historically associated with a designer of national renown (Alexander Edward), there is little surviving tangible evidence of his planned

design in the present landscape. It is uncertain to what extent the scheme proposed for Hamilton by Edward was implemented, or which elements of the plan predate his involvement (see Site History). Edward assisted in the 17th- century landscape designs at Hopetoun House and Kinross House, both of which are included on the Inventory and form better surviving examples of his work.

2.2 Historic value

Value: High

(i) There is an extensive collection of contemporary estate records, maps and plan drawings relating to the landscape at Hamilton Palace, held principally at the Hamilton Archives at Lennoxlove House in East Lothian, and at the Hamilton Low Parks Museum. The 'Rediscover Hamilton Palace' website indicates the extent of documentary records relating to the development of Hamilton Palace (<http://hamilton.rcahms.org.uk//rediscover.html>).

(ii-iii) In its present form, Hamilton Palace, is not an outstanding representative of any particular period of garden and designed landscape history and it does not contain any individual components which provide an outstanding example of a particular period or style of garden design. The national interest of the Hamilton Mausoleum is recognised through its listing at category A.

(iv) Hamilton Palace does not appear to have been widely considered a trendsetting landscape, for reasons noted in section 2.1 (ii) above.

(v) Hamilton Palace does not demonstrate physical evidence of a particularly early form of designed landscape, such as the 15th century 'King's Knot' at Stirling Castle, for example.

(vi) The site has strong associations with the Dukes of Hamilton which merits a 'high' value under this category. Tangible evidence of this historic association is, however, significantly reduced in the present landscape.

2.3 Horticultural, arboricultural or silvicultural value

Value: Little

Hamilton Palace is not considered to have high or outstanding value in this category of assessment for the following reasons:

(i-ii) The gardens associated with Hamilton Palace no longer exist. The Hamilton Low Parks area was significantly reworked around 1976 as part of the Strathclyde Country Park developments. Hamilton Palace has no significant plant, shrub or tree collection and no scientific collections.

(iii, iv) There is no evidence to suggest that Hamilton Low Parks has a nationally important place in the history of horticultural, arboricultural, or silvicultural practice in Scotland. Most trees within the current Inventory boundary are less than 200 years

old. There are no champion trees within the designated area (National Tree Register database). In order for Hamilton Palace to score more highly in this category, it would need to have an outstanding collection of plants, shrubs or trees with a wide range of species, unusual species or rarities.

2.4 Architectural value

Value: Outstanding

The Low Parks Museum incorporates the former Estate Office/former Portland House, 1796-1723 by James Smith; and the former Riding School of 1832 by William Burn. The two buildings are listed together at category A (LB 34521). The Hamilton Mausoleum (circa 1850 by David Bryce) is a nationally significant example of its building type, also listed at category A (LB 34518).

2.5 Scenic value

Value: Some

Estate landscapes that score well in this category tend to incorporate dramatic landform or especially prominent built elements and landscape features such as extensive woodland or parks that contrast with adjacent landscape types.

The surviving parts of the Barmichael plantation and the wetland areas to the north of the designated area provide some scenic value in this category. However, the Hamilton Palace designed landscape is not considered to have high or outstanding value in this category of assessment for the following reasons: Infrastructural and commercial development after 1950 has considerably reduced the scenic value of this site, particularly in terms of views from 'Hamilton High Parks' at Chatelherault (q.v. Inventory) to the south and towards distant hills to the north and east. The landscape in its present form does not make a major scenic contribution by virtue of its rarity or by contrast with the surrounding landscape.

2.6 Nature Conservation value

Value: Outstanding

The 'Hamilton Low Parks' is a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (Scottish Natural Heritage – SSSI 761). This wetland and woodland area is one of the largest breeding grounds for Grey Heron in Scotland. The Barmichael Plantation is part of the SSSI area, with the heron mainly nesting within the beech and yew.

Other local initiatives to manage remaining green areas within the landscape contribute further value in this category, such as at the western edge of South Haugh, for example, where there are some mature trees. At the time of writing, South Lanarkshire council also supports local conservation days at South Haugh and Low Parks (2016)

(http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200166/getting_outdoors/1567/environmental_volunteering).

2.7 Archaeological value

Value: Outstanding

The 'Hamilton Low Parks, Motte' (Scheduled Monument No 10726 - also known as Netherton Motte) is the remains of a small medieval motte and bailey castle mound beside the M74 motorway on the east side of the Low Parks. It is scheduled in recognition of its national importance. Part of the Battlefield Inventory site for the 1679 Battle of Bothwell Bridge (q.v. Inventory of Historic Battlefields) is included in the northern most part of the designated designed landscape area. There is potential for the survival of archaeological remains associated with the battlefield site in the 'Covenanter's Field' area, to the south of the Bothwell Bridge.

Other undesignated archaeology

Further value in this category derives from the potential for any future survey or investigation to reveal further information about the landscape over time.

3. Condition and Integrity (SHEP 2011, p82)

The condition of the site today and its overall integrity are important elements of the assessment process.

The focal point of the palace and its surrounding gardens, parkland and water features no longer exist in the present landscape. Evidence of the wider historic landscape structure is also significantly reduced in the present landscape by the presence of substantial 20th century commercial, residential, industrial and infrastructural development across the site. Hamilton Palace in its present form does not compare well with other estate designed landscapes on the Inventory, which demonstrate a better level of integrity, or 'completeness' in terms of surviving features.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes**

Hamilton Palace secures an outstanding level of interest against the Inventory assessment criteria for architectural value and archaeological value as it contains a number of significant buildings and archaeological sites including part of the Bothwell Bridge battlefield site. This interest is recognised through listing (for buildings), scheduling (for monuments) and inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields. It is also of outstanding interest for nature conservation value due to the presence of a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Hamilton Palace also achieves high historic value due to a large surviving body of documentary evidence, which informs understanding of the development of the landscape and its close historical associations with the Dukes of Hamilton.

However, the condition of the site today and its overall integrity are important elements of the assessment process. The palace, gardens, parkland, avenues and water features formerly associated with the Hamilton Palace designed landscape largely no longer exist in the present landscape. Major commercial, industrial and infrastructural redevelopment across the former estate landscape has had a major impact on the integrity of the site. This has significantly reduced the site's importance as a representative example of 18th and 19th-century Scottish landscape design.

The current condition and integrity of the site also reduces the importance of Hamilton Palace as an example of Alexander Edward's work, although as discussed above, there remains some doubt as to the extent of his involvement in the execution of the design.

The above assessment means that Hamilton Palace cannot be considered a garden and designed landscape of national importance. In our current state of knowledge Hamilton Palace is not considered to meet the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

5. Designation Boundary

N/A

6. Other Information

N/A.

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> Canmore ID: 22842

Maps, plans and archives

Roy W. (Circa 1750) Roy Military Survey of Scotland, 1747-1755, Lowlands

Ordnance Survey (Surveyed 1859, Published 1864), 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25 Inches to the Mile, London, Ordnance Survey.

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Defoe D. (1706) *'A Tour Thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain, Divided into Circuits or Journies'* (Reprinted, London: JM Dent and Co, 1927)

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Tait A. A. (July 1983) *'The Duke of Hamilton's Palace'*, Burlington Magazine.

The Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-99) *Statistical Account of the Parish of Hamilton*, Vol. 2, <http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/link/1791-99/Lanark/Hamilton/>

Internet Sources

'Rediscover Hamilton Palace': Isaac Miller Drawing (1677); Alexander Edward Plan (1708); William Douglas Map Survey (1776); David Bryce (1848) Drawings; David Hamilton Drawings (1837) <http://hamilton.rcahms.org.uk//rediscover.html> [accessed 25/11/2015]

Plan of improvements by William Pettigrew (1813) for Hamilton, South Lanarkshire. <http://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-599-008-C> [accessed 24/11/2015]

Dictionary of Scottish Architects <http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk> [accessed 24/11/2015]

Tree Register database, <http://www.treeregister.org> [accessed 25/11/2015]

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the national interest of a site. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated Inventory record should the site be added to the Inventory. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

** A site may be found to meet the Inventory criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the Inventory. See '[When might Historic Environment Scotland add a garden or designed landscape to the Inventory?](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardensinventory.htm)' at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardensinventory.htm>