Designations:
Report on Handling

Historic Environment Scotland
Àrainneachd Eachdraidheil Alba

Case information

Case ID	300009271
File Reference	HGPI/P/SA/5
Name of Site	Rosneath

Local Authority	Argyll and Bute
National Grid Reference	NS 26925 81566
Designation No. (if any)	GDL00328
Designation Type	Garden and designed landscape
Case Type	Removal

Received / Start Date	2014/15 Inventory Refresh Project
Decision Date	04/05/2016

1. Decision

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

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Rosneath was added to the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in 1987.

The site was identified for review as part of the Inventory Refresh Project, 2014-15.

The following listed buildings are located within the Inventory boundary:

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LB42625	Rosneath Castle Estate, Bathwell (near Parkhead)	Category A
LB42626	Rosneath Castle Policies, Ice House	Category C
LB42627	Rosneath Castle Estate, Parkhead with Walled Garden	Category C

Rosneath Home Farm (LB42682) is also listed at category A. It is located at the southwest perimeter of the Inventory boundary with the majority of buildings outside of the boundary.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

Rosneath was visited on 10 June 2015. The visit was carried out during heavy rainfall. The wooded approach drive, the caravan park, the walled garden at Park House, Home Farm and the farmland and forestry plantations were seen.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The site was found to no longer meet the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory.

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*

Rosneath

1. Description

1.1 Type of site

An estate landscape associated with the former Rosneath House (now demolished)

1.2 Main phases of landscape development

Circa 1750s - 1860

1.3 Location and Setting

Rosneath is located on a natural promontory on the east shore of the Rosneath Peninsula in Argyll, extending eastward to the Gareloch, between Camsail Bay to the north and Meikleross Bay to the south. It has views across the water to the town of Helensburgh on the Dunbartonshire coast.

The Inventory area comprises 128 hectares (320 acres). A caravan park occupies 19 hectares (47 acres) at the northern end of this promontory. This northern area is the site of an earlier castle (no longer extant), and the former Rosneath House and gardens (demolished in 1954–1961).

The designed landscape boundary also includes around 49 hectares (120 acres) of mostly ploughed and pasture farmland and around 40 hectares (100 acres) of commercial conifer plantation. Mixed deciduous woodland borders the drive which enters the caravan park at the north of the designed landscape.

1.4 Site History

An earlier fortified structure at Rosneath held a defensive position on the Firth of Clyde during the medieval and late medieval periods. Historic records show that the lands of Rosneath were later gifted to the Campbell Earls of Argyll in the 17th century, and that the castle was remodelled in 1630. General Roy's Map (c.1750) shows the site of this building at Castle Bay, with avenues of trees radiating out towards the northeast coast. This castle was destroyed by fire in 1802.

The current designed landscape was established between the second half of the 18th century and the 19th century. A map published a year before the 1802 fire suggests that a lot of planting had already taken place by this date, extending the design as shown on the 1750 Roy map, and creating the woodlands known as the Dark Wood (at the north of the site) and Greenisland Plantations (to the south) (Langlands 1801).

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In 1803, a new and large mansion house was completed for the 5th Duke of Argyll. Located a short distance to the south of the former castle, Rosneath House became the focal point of the designed landscape. To the southeast of the house, a large square-plan Italian style ornamental garden was laid out in a grid plan.

A. A. Tait suggests in his 1980 book, '*The Landscape Garden in Scotland, 1735-1835',* that the renowned landscape artist and 'gentleman architect' Alexander Nasmyth (1758-1840) 'may have had a hand' in the design of this garden (1980: 128). Nasmyth was involved in building works at Inveraray Castle and at Rosneath Home Farm for the Duke of Argyll around 1800.

In the 19th century Rosneath was a well-known landmark. The landscape included established mature woodlands along the shore, inland parks, a large kitchen garden and orchard at Parkhead, a possible curling pond to the east of the house and the ornamental garden to the southeast of the house (Ordnance Survey 1865). In 1830, Leighton described the house as 'situated amid woods of the most magnificent description' (www.scran.ac.uk). Numerous historic photographs and postcards show the house within its garden and woodland setting from Helensburgh across the Gareloch. In 1893, W C Maughan in his book *Rosneath, Past and Present – A Retrospect* described 'numerous lofty trees of the silver and Scotch fir species' in the neighbouring woods. The most notable trees recorded at Rosneath were two veteran silver firs known as 'Adam and Eve'. Thought to have been planted in the 17th century, they were felled in the late 20th century.

From 1954-1961, Rosneath House and the ornamental gardens were demolished. The north end of the promontory was redeveloped as a caravan park after 1954. In 2015 it contained around 50 residential holiday homes and around 250 static caravans with associated restaurant and other facilities.

In 1987, the owners of Parkhead commenced the creation of a new formal garden within the walled enclosure, which has become increasingly well known in its own right in horticultural circles (see under Walled Garden).

1.5 Landscape Components

Architectural features

Rosneath designed landscape contains several structures of architectural and historic interest. Bathwell, near Parkhead, is a mid-to-late 18th - century bathhouse or 'bath well' of stone ashlar construction, located in Dark Wood near Parkhead, to the west of the caravan park. It is listed at category A (LB 42625).

Parkhead is a mid-to-late 18th - century crescent-plan building with adjoining walled garden (see 'Walled Garden' below). It was built to house workers' families with additional accommodation for livestock. It is now a private house and is listed at category C (LB 42627).

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The remains of a former ice house is located in the woodland to the east of Parkhead. It is listed at category C (LB 42626).

Rosneath Home Farm is located at the southwest perimeter of the Inventory boundary (the majority of buildings lie outside the boundary). It was built around 1800 by Alexander Nasmyth in a castellated Gothic style with octagonal turrets and a tall central square tower, partly demolished in 1961. The farm is listed at category A (LB 42628).

Drives and approaches

The single approach drive, entering from the northwest corner of the site, leads to the caravan park and continues eastward through woodland (see below) towards the site of Rosneath House, as shown on the 1865 Ordnance Survey map. To the south of the caravan park, the former drive continues through trees along the east shore as an access road through Greenisland plantation to 'Greenisle' at the southern end of the promontory.

Parkland

The former parkland to the south of the caravan park is now largely ploughed farmland. The 1865 Ordnance Survey map indicates that the parks once had some individual and loosely grouped specimen trees. These are mostly no longer present.

Woodland

The Dark Wood is an area of mixed policy woodlands at the north of the designed landscape which was probably established from the later 18th century onwards (Langlands 1801). The trees present now are mainly 19th and 20th century in origin. A natural rock landform known as 'Wallace's Loup' is located within this area of woodland. The large southerly plantation, known as Greenisland, was felled in 1940 for the war effort and was later replanted by the Forestry Commission as commercially forested conifer woodlands. It forms part of the Gallow Hill Woodland and Greenisland Plantation Local Nature Conservation Site (Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan 2015).

Walled Garden

The walled garden, adjoining to the south of Parkhead (and forming part of the listing), was formerly the kitchen garden for Rosneath House. It has a long north-south axis and a bowed wall to the north. From circa 1987, the owners began work on a new garden within the enclosure. It has a formal topiary design influenced by 18th-century Scottish, French and Italian gardens, and includes three connecting yew circles with a sundial, circular box maze and a circular pond, on the central axis. It has opened as part of the Scotland's' Open Garden scheme and has received positive reviews in the national press (The Scotsman 2013).

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2. Assessment Against the Criteria for Inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes (SHEP 2011- http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/policy/shep.htm) 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.

2.1 Value as individual work of art in its own right

Value: Some

Some 19th-century sources suggest that Rosneath designed landscape was historically valued as a work of art in its own right (eg. Leighton 1830 quoted in www.scran.ac.uk). While the New Statistical Account of Scotland of 1840 was doubtful about the choice of site for the house itself [it was] 'not perhaps the best as might have been otherwise selected on the grounds' (p.118), the ornamental Italian style garden was later described as 'delightful and old-fashioned' (Maughan 1893). There is also interest from the possible involvement of the renowned artist and designer Alexander Nasmyth in the layout of this garden (Tait 1980: 128). Furthermore, the production of postcards showing views of Rosneath in the late 19th century also suggest that the designed landscape acquired some fame as a coastal landmark at a time when steamer excursions along the Firth of Clyde were at the peak of their popularity.

However, although published reviews (e.g. The Scotsman 2013) of the walled garden at Parkhead provide evidence that the major landscape design and planting work begun around 1987 has attained value as a work or art in its own right, the designed landscape as a whole has undergone significant change since the 1950s and the Italianate garden or Rosneath House as described above is no longer extant (see 'Condition and Integrity' for further discussion).

In our current state of knowledge there is little to suggest that Rosneath was a significant trendsetter for other later estate designed landscapes in Scotland or that it represents an exceptional example of any particular phase of designed landscape development.

Taken together, these factors indicate that Rosneath retains some value as an individual work of art in its own right. Inventory sites that score highly in this regard tend to be particularly notable and largely surviving examples of their type which inspired the designers of later landscapes, such as the naturalistic or picturesque approach to landscape design exemplified by the 18th-century work of Sir John Clerk at Penicuik House, Midlothian.

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2.2 Historic value

Value: Some

The historical association of Rosneath House with the Campbell/Argyll family contributes some value in this category. The Earls and Dukes of Argyll were significant political and military figures in Scotland, serving as heads of government and advisers to the Crown with responsibility for national economic affairs. From 1896 until 1939, Rosneath was the principal home of HRH Princess Louise, daughter of Queen Victoria and wife of the 9th Duke.

However, with the exception of some contemporary documentary evidence of its origins in General Roy's Map of 1747-55, there is otherwise no large or significant collection of documentary evidence relating to its development, and no tangible evidence of this layout in the present landscape. For example, Rosneath house and surrounding gardens, which were laid out in the Italianate fashion, are no longer extant.

Furthermore, based on our current knowledge of the site, there is no evidence to suggest that Rosneath was a pioneering or trendsetting landscape at any stage in its history.

2.3 Horticultural, arboricultural or silvicultural value

Value: Some

A Cedar of Lebanon within the grounds of the caravan park is recorded as a county champion tree on the National Tree Register database and this contributes some value in this category. There are also some mature woodland trees in Dark Wood to the north of the designed landscape, while the walled garden at Parkhead contains a variety of shrubs, trees and bedding plants.

However, based on our current knowledge of the site, Rosneath has no known plant, tree or shrub collections of special or scientific significance and is not considered to be a pioneer in the history of horticultural, arboricultural, or silvicultural practice in Scotland.

Inventory sites that demonstrate outstanding value in this category include botanic gardens such as Linn Botanic Gardens in Argyll and Bute, estate landscapes that contain notable arboreta, such as Monteviot in the Scottish Borders or Mount Stuart, Bute, or horticulturalists' gardens with extensive or rare collections, such as Glenarn in Argyll and Bute.

2.4 Architectural value

Value: Outstanding

Rosneath House designed landscape contains architectural features of national importance. The former bath house is listed at category A and the Rosneath Home

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Farm (at the perimeter of the Inventory boundary) is also listed at category A. Other architectural features, including Parkhead and the walled garden and the former ice house contribute further interest.

2.5 Scenic value

Value: Some

The woodland plantations along the shoreline are a feature of views towards the landscape from Helensburgh, looking out across the mouth of Gareloch. They contribute some interest in this category.

Changes that took place in the mid-20th century, including the removal of Rosneath House, the felling and re-planting of Greenisland Plantation and the development of the caravan park have reduced the legibility of the landscape as a historic designed estate landscape and this has also had an impact on its contribution to the scenic character of the local area.

Estate landscapes that score well in this category tend to be very large, such as Haddo House in Aberdeenshire, or have extensive mature mixed deciduous woodlands such as Fordell Castle in Fife. Culzean Castle in South Ayrshire, Brodick Castle on the island of Arran, and Inveraray Castle, Argyll are further examples where prominent built elements contrast with dramatic landscaped features as part of a unified design.

2.6 Nature Conservation value

Value: Some

There are no nationally designated habitats within the Inventory boundary.

Some value in this category derives from the range of habitats within the Inventory boundary, including the walled garden at Parkhead and the wooded shoreline habitats of the promontory, which supports a variety of wildlife. A significant part of these woodlands are recognised as a Local Nature Conservation Site (see under ‘Woodlands’ above).

2.7 Archaeological value

Value: Some

There are no scheduled monuments located within the designed landscape boundary at Rosneath. Some value derives from the likely presence of buried archaeological deposits associated with earlier fortified structures at Rosneath during the medieval and post-medieval periods (West of Scotland Archaeology Service, Sites and Monuments Record). As with all estate landscapes, there is the potential for future survey or investigation to reveal more information about the development of the landscape over time.

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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 walled garden at Parkhead has been transformed through the creation of a new, formal topiary garden from circa 1987. However, with regards to the designed landscape as a whole, the prime architectural focal point (Rosneath House) and its associated pleasure grounds are no longer present. The area has been redeveloped as a caravan park (see 1.4 'Site History'). The woodland to the south has also undergone changes in terms of its composition from circa 1940. This has reduced the integrity of Rosneath as an example of an 18th and 19th- century historic estate landscape.

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

Rosneath is a coastal estate designed landscape located at the southeast end of the Rosneath Peninsula. Historic maps indicate that landscape design work probably commenced in the 18th century and continued into the 19th century, with the construction of Rosneath House and ornamental garden taking place in 1803.

Changes in the landscape from circa 1940 onwards have included the felling and replanting of woodland, the demolition of Rosneath House and garden and the development of a caravan park in the northern part of the landscape.

Some former estate buildings remain and this assessment has found that Rosneath has outstanding architectural value for its surviving built features, most notably the 18th-century former bath house. The significance of these buildings is recognised through their existing listing designations.

The redesigned walled garden at Parkhead has become better known in the last five years and is of some interest as a work of art in its own right. The surviving mature woodland trees in Dark Wood and the mature Cedar of Lebanon offer some horticultural interest, while the woodlands also offer some scenic interest in views towards the promontory and nature conservation value as a favourable habitat for wildlife. The Greenisland plantation is part of a Local Nature Conservation Site. There is some historical interest in the association with the Dukes of Argyll, while the potential for archaeology relating to the earlier Rosneath Castle, is also of some interest.

This assessment has found that in the past, the estate was the subject of positive accounts, indicating that it was valued as a work of art in its own right, and that there is a possible connection with Alexander Nasmyth in the design of the former garden grounds.

However, this assessment has also found that the focal-point of the 19th-century landscape, Rosneath House, and its associated ornamental garden, no longer exist.

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In its present form, Rosneath is not an exceptional example of any particular phase of designed landscape or garden development in Scotland. There are no known outstanding collections of documentary evidence that chart the evolution of the design and Rosneath is not considered to be a pioneer or trendsetter in terms of its overall design or individual components. There are no nationally designated nature conservation sites, no plant or tree collections of national significance and no scheduled monuments within the Inventory boundary. The integrity of the landscape is a significant factor in this assessment with the absence of Rosneath House and gardens and the development of the northern section of the site having reduced the legibility of the earlier design.

Taking into account all of the above factors, Rosneath is no longer considered to meet the criteria for inclusion on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and is therefore proposed for removal from the Inventory.

5. Designation Boundary

It is proposed to remove this site from the Inventory.

6. Other Information

N/A.

7. References

Canmore: http://canmore.org.uk/ 200721, 41432, 6184

Maps, Plans and Archives

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Ordnance Survey (Surveyed 1914, Published 1918) Dumbartonshire n017.01 (includes: Rosneath), 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25 Inches to the Mile, London, Ordnance Survey.

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Buildings At Risk Register for Scotland. (http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk) [accessed 25 September 2015]

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SCRAN, (www.scran.ac.uk) [accessed 15 February 2016]

West of Scotland Archaeology Service's, Sites and Monuments Record, WOSAS refs: 6001, 45508, 45506, 45507, 45520 (http://www.wosas.net/search.php) [accessed 25 September 2015]

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* 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?**' at http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/gardens/gardensinventory.htm

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