

Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past | Consultation Analysis

1. Introduction

Background to the consultation

From 13 April to 31 May 2021, Historic Environment Scotland (HES) sought views and nominations of sites to consider for our new programme of work *Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past*.

This programme will champion Scotland's modern garden and designed landscape heritage through recording sites, improving online records and considering the most important sites for designation.

We launched the programme by gathering information and opinions from our stakeholders and members of the public. On 13 April, we held a webinar for invited stakeholders and opened the public online survey from our website.

What is the programme about?

We think gardens and designed landscapes dating from 1945 to the early 2000s are underrepresented in our publicly available records.

The aim for *Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past* is to build knowledge and champion Scotland's modern garden and designed landscape heritage through the following activities;

- Asking for nominations of sites
- Compiling information and doing research
- Recording selected sites for the National Record of the Historic Environment (Canmore)
- Assessing the most important sites for the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Reviewing and updating existing designation and Canmore records
- Promoting knowledge and sharing information about our work

2. Report objectives

The purpose of this report is to

- Outline the findings of the consultation on *Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past*
- Provide further detail on the sites nominated for the programme
- Provide further detail on our next steps

3. Promotion and distribution

The consultation on the *Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past* programme was distributed as an online survey consisting of 6 questions with an option to nominate a maximum of 3 sites.

Citizen space hosted the survey via our [Consultation hub](#). We promoted the survey in the following ways

- Through postal and email invitations to the stakeholder webinar on 13th April
- Through our webinar presentation on 13th April
- Historic Environment Scotland social media channels (Twitter)
- The National Trust for Scotland circulated the link among colleagues and promoted the survey on Twitter
- Individual external project contacts promoted the survey on Twitter
- Greenspace Scotland monthly email bulletin (May 2021)
- Information was provided to Landscape Institute Scotland and the 20th Century Society for circulation to their members

4. Approach to the analysis

We examined the responses to each question and identified and grouped the main themes raised in the free-text comments.

The sites nominated (including associated data on local authority and reason for nomination) were added to a spreadsheet and were tagged as nominations coming to us from the public online survey.

5. Responses

We received 30 responses to the survey and a total of 47 nominations of sites to consider as part of the *Designed Landscapes of the Recent Past* programme.

All responses were anonymous and we did not collect personal data. Most were from private individuals, but we also received responses on behalf of organisations, public bodies or charities and from private businesses. Most respondents confirmed they use Canmore and the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes for work and/or interest.

6. Findings

Summary findings

All respondents agreed that gardens and designed landscapes of the recent past were part of Scotland's historic environment and that they should be protected in the same way as older sites. Most considered that modern designed landscapes were not adequately represented in our online records and were sometimes under threat.

Comments noted that sites of this period were not always valued as much as buildings or natural landscapes and could be vulnerable to loss, alteration or problems with maintenance.

Other comments noted that these sites were part of Scotland's story and that recording them and telling their history was important for future generations. Several respondents told us that we should consider landscape broadly, and to include sites related to housing, industry and infrastructure in our programme.

Once repeat nominations were subtracted, we had a total of 42 individual sites nominated from across 15 local authority areas Scotland (See list in Annex 1). This number included a broad range of site types, from public parks and private gardens through to business premises and landscapes of infrastructure. The local authority areas with the largest numbers of nominations were Glasgow and Edinburgh City Councils.

Main points from comments on recording, recognising and protecting designed landscapes of the recent past:

- Post-war designed landscapes are undervalued
- Sites should be recorded and exemplar projects identified
- The subject is missing from public discussion
- Designed landscapes are less protected than buildings and natural landscapes
- Landscape should be defined broadly and encompass those associated with housing, industry, infrastructure and the New Towns
- There needs to be better measures to preserve and maintain gardens and designed landscapes and provide support and information for owners and managers.
- This period of design showcases landscape architects and practices.
- Sites should be discovered, preserved and celebrated so we understand this heritage and the development of landscape architecture as a profession.
- Recording aids future research and help us understand this part of Scotland's story
- There are a number of post-1945 parks in Glasgow that are under threat and should be recorded
- Access to green space is essential, and parks and gardens require protection from development and loss
- We can't maintain everything as it used to be, but it's important to preserve some elements of the past
- What constitutes good design?

More information about the responses we received is included below at Annex 1.

Conclusions

The online survey gives us valuable data on current concerns about designed landscapes of the recent past among respondents who largely identify as users of our online records. These concerns relate to the status of these landscapes as heritage, and also as a resource subject to change and loss. The nominations provided gives a substantial selection of sites to consider for recording and assessment.

Next steps

Following the close of the online survey, our focus will be to undertake a sifting exercise on the sites nominated as part of the online survey. These have been

added to a spreadsheet further populated with sites brought to our attention through other means (through the webinar of 13th April, internal conversations in Historic Environment Scotland, and through liaison with the [ScoMo Project](#)).

The sifting exercise will identify sites that we wish to include in the project, those that we consider to be a lower priority, and those that are out of scope. At this stage, inclusion in the project could mean a variety of outputs, varying from minor updates to a record through to a more comprehensive recording exercise and assessment for designation. While this sifting exercise is ongoing, we will also take forward two pilot case studies for site visits, recording and assessment during 2021/2022.

Although the online survey has finished, we would still welcome your views on designed landscapes of the recent past, or information about any particular site in Scotland dating from 1945 to the early 2000s.

You can contact us by email at modernlandscapes@hes.scot.

Updates will be posted on our website at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/modernlandscapes>.

Annex 1: Responses to online survey

1: Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Respondents

There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
As an individual	21	70.00%
On behalf of an organisation, public body or charity	6	20.00%
On behalf of a local authority	0	0.00%
As a private business, such as a landscape architect	2	6.67%
Representing a community group	0	0.00%
Other	1	3.33%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

2: Do you use the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes? (Select all that apply)

There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes - For my work	12	40.00%
Yes - For research and/or interest	14	46.67%
No - I've heard of it but never used it	2	6.67%
No - This is the first time I've heard of the Inventory	8	26.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

3: Do you use Canmore - the online database of the National Record of the Historic Environment? (Select all that apply)

There were 30 responses to this part of the question.

Option	Total	Percent
Yes - For my work	13	43.33%
Yes - For research and/or interest	21	70.00%
No - I've heard of it but not used it	3	10.00%
No - This is the first time I've heard of Canmore	1	3.33%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

4: To what extent do you agree with the following?

Post-1945 gardens and designed landscapes are part of Scotland's historic environment

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	28	93.33%
Slightly agree	2	6.67%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	0	0.00%
Slightly disagree	0	0.00%
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

I would be able to recognise a post-1945 garden or designed landscape

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	16	53.33%
Slightly agree	9	30.00%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	2	6.67%
Slightly disagree	1	3.33%
Strongly disagree	2	6.67%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Post-1945 gardens and designed landscapes are adequately represented in our online records

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	0	0.00%
Slightly agree	0	0.00%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	7	23.33%
Slightly disagree	14	46.67%
Strongly disagree	8	26.67%
Not Answered	1	3.33%

The Inventory adequately represents Scotland's garden and designed landscape heritage

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	1	3.33%
Slightly agree	6	20.00%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	10	33.33%
Slightly disagree	10	33.33%
Strongly disagree	2	6.67%
Not Answered	1	3.33%

Post-1945 gardens and designed landscapes need to be protected in the same way as older sites

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	24	80.00%
Slightly agree	6	20.00%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	0	0.00%
Slightly disagree	0	0.00%
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

I can easily find information online about specific gardens and designed landscapes of this period

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	1	3.33%
Slightly agree	3	10.00%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	12	40.00%
Slightly disagree	8	26.67%
Strongly disagree	6	20.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

Post-1945 gardens and designed landscapes are under threat

Option	Total	Percent
Strongly agree	13	43.33%
Slightly agree	11	36.67%
Neutral - no opinion or undecided	5	16.67%
Slightly disagree	1	3.33%
Strongly disagree	0	0.00%
Not Answered	0	0.00%

5. All Sites nominated

Aberdeenshire	Gordon Castle
Aberdeenshire	Douneside House, Tarland
Argyll and Bute	Crarae Garden
Dumfries and Galloway	Dumfries and Galloway Hydro schemes
Dumfries and Galloway	Crawick Multiverse, Sanquhar
Dumfries and Galloway	Glenwhan Garden
Dumfries and Galloway	Garden of Cosmic Speculation, Portrack
East Lothian	Torness Transmission Lines
East Lothian	Coldingham Abbey excavations
East Renfrewshire	Kamares
Edinburgh	Ravelston Rise
Edinburgh	Montgomery Street Park
Edinburgh	Saughton Park
Edinburgh	Japanese Garden, Lauriston Castle
Edinburgh	Jupiter Artland
Edinburgh	Gallery of Modern Art
Edinburgh	Scottish Widows building
Edinburgh	Dunbar's Close, High Street
Falkirk	The Helix, (including the Kelpies)
Fife	Glenrothes
Fife	Scottish Earth Project, Kelty
Fife	Culross Palace Garden
Glasgow	New Gorbals Park, Alexander Crescent

Glasgow	Garnethill Park
Glasgow	Beardmore Park, Springburn
Glasgow	Langside Housing Estate
Glasgow	Rottenrow Gardens
Glasgow	The Hidden Gardens
Glasgow	Boulder and Rill Garden, University of Strathclyde
Glasgow	The Children's Wood and North Kelvin Meadow, Kelbourne Street
North Lanarkshire	Cummins Engine Company, Shotts
North Lanarkshire	Kildrum area, Cumbernauld
Orkney	Flotta Oil Terminal
Perth and Kinross	Ardvorlich House, nr Lochearnhead
Perth and Kinross	Drummond Castle
Perth and Kinross	Norie Miller Park, Perth
Perth and Kinross	Aviva, Pitheavlis
Scottish Borders	Megget Reservoir and landscaping, Etrick Valley
Stirling	Bannockburn memorial site
Stirling	University of Stirling campus
West Lothian	Birdsmill House, Broxburn
West Lothian	Livingston Town art