

City of Edinburgh Council

Edinburgh
Survey of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

079 Malleny Park
(Wester Lymphoy / Lymphoy)

Consultants














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This report by Christopher Dingwall
Survey visit: October 2007

079 - Malleny Park



Key

-  Site boundary
-  Ruined buildings
-  Principal buildings
-  Gardens
-  Water
-  Woodlands
-  Parkland
-  Essential setting
-  Site of former house
-  Main drive
-  Principal views or vista
-  Panoramic View
-  Walled Garden

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

**SURVEY OF GARDENS AND
DESIGNED LANDSCAPES**

Peter McGowan
Associates with
Christopher Dingwall

079 Malleny Park
(Wester Lymphoy / Lymphoy)

Parish Currie, later Edinburgh
NGR NT 166 684
NMRS No None
Owner City of Edinburgh Council with Currie Rugby Football Club

Designations

Listing None within the park

Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland: public access to the park from Bavelaw Road/Green is through part of the Malleny House Inventory site (The National Trust for Scotland)

Balerno Conservation Area

Green Belt

Protected open space

Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (The Water of Leith, including riverside woodland)

REASONS FOR INCLUSION

Malleny Park contributes to the rural setting of the village of Balerno and to the visual separation between the neighbouring villages of Currie and Balerno. The park is also part of the *essential setting* for the neighbouring Malleny House and its gardens. The mature riverside woodlands are an important part of the green corridor that follows the course of the Water of Leith.

LOCATION, SETTING AND EXTENT

Malleny Park comprises an area of near-flat haugh land or river terrace on the south bank of the Water of Leith, together with the steep, mostly wooded slopes that separate this from the rising ground of Harlaw to the south and east. The park lies on the east edge of the village of Balerno, eight miles from the centre of Edinburgh and two miles to the north of the Pentland Hills. The park lies across the Water of Leith from the A70 Lanark Road West and is approached from this road via Bridge Road and Bavelaw Road/Green. Vehicular and pedestrian access from Bavelaw Road/Green is via a short section of the drive to Malleny House, which crosses the Bavelaw Burn by way of a rusticated stone bridge. There is separate access to the park across the Water of Leith via a footbridge from the grounds of Balerno Community High School. Site area 8.2ha.



*Malleny House (NTS) seen
from Malleny Park*

MAIN PHASES OF DEVELOPMENT

Planting associated with Malleny House from late 17th century; 18th and 19th century changes; fragmentation in the late 20th century.

HISTORY OF LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

Documentary evidence points to this land having been enclosed and planted before the mid-18th century, and to its having been part of the policies of Malleny House prior to the fragmentation of the estate during the 20th century.

Harris (2002) puts the earliest mention of the Malleny estate in documentary records at c1280. Past owners have included the Knychtsounes (1478) and Sir James Murray of Kilbaberton (17thC), who is credited with the building of the mansion house c1635. The estate was acquired in 1647 by William Scott, later



Roy c1750

Lord Clerkington, and passed to his son, who became the first Scott of Malleny. During more than two centuries, until the estate was sold to Archibald Primrose 5th Earl of Rosebery in 1882, the Scotts invested in the expansion of the house and the improvement of the estate. General Thomas Scott was responsible for additions to the house in the early 19th century. The house was let from 1882 until it was bought by Lord and Lady Geddes in 1955, before being sold again to Mr and Mrs Gore-Brown Henderson in 1960. The mansion house, ancillary buildings and gardens were bequeathed to the National Trust for Scotland by Mrs Gore-Browne Henderson on her death in 1968. Part of the surrounding policies was leased by the Currie Rugby Football Club from the Earl of Rosebery in the 1980s, following the formation of the club in 1970. This arrangement was modified as a result of the building of Balerno High School in 1983 on part of the land to the north of the Water of Leith. Responsibility for the remaining land on the south side of the Water of Leith is now divided between City of Edinburgh Council and Currie Rugby Football Club.

Maps and Graphic Evidence

The name *Lumphoy* appears on Blaeu's map (1654). It is only on Adair's map (1682) that we see a distinction between the old tower house of *Lymphoy C[astle]* and *W[ester] Lymphoy*, with the latter being shown as a mansion within its own walled and wooded enclosure. *W[ester] Limphoy* is also noted on the much later engraved version of Adair's map (1735) with associated planting. Roy's map (c1750) shows the mansion house of *Moleaney* within a walled garden, surrounded by three walled and tree-lined enclosures, two smaller ones to the south shown as being cultivated, a larger one to the north (equivalent to today's Malleny Park) being shown as grazing. A curving line of woodland marks the

Ordnance Survey 6" map
1852-53



Riverside walk and sign

break of slope that separates the flatter haugh land from the higher ground to the south and east. Although a similar layout is seen on Armstrong's map (1773), Thomson (1832) appears to show additional shelterbelt planting on the rising ground to the south and east.

The first Ordnance Survey maps (1850s) shows the area as open and undivided parkland fringed by trees, and with a small amount of internal planting concentrated on the river bank and on the steeper ground to the west of the park. The landscape framework has changed very little since that time. The subsequent division between Malleeny Park and the Currie Rugby Football Club's ground is marked by a wire mesh fence. Car parking and the Rugby Club's clubhouse facilities are located within the public park, to the south of the rugby ground.



Malleeny Park car park

COMPONENTS OF THE DESIGNED LANDSCAPE

Approach and Entrance

The main approach to the park is via a shared access from Bavelaw Road/Green, which links to the long-established drive to Malleeny House, and crosses the Bavelaw Burn by way of the rusticated stone Bavelaw Burn Bridge (Category A listed due to its association with Malleeny House). The drive is separated from the park by a low wall and hedge.



*Currie Rugby Football Club
clubhouse*

Clubhouse and Car Park

The south-west corner of the public park is occupied by Currie RFC Clubhouse and a riverside car park. The clubhouse is a functional building of no architectural merit, while the neighbouring car park is surfaced with hardcore and gravel, and has little or no appearance of landscaping.

Riverside Woodland

An old stone wall, ruinous in places, separates the park and rugby ground from the mixed broadleaved woodland, which fringes the Water of Leith. The riverside woodland is neglected and gappy in places, and contains a number of dead and fallen trees, including elms.



*Currie Rugby Football Club
security fence*

Playing Fields

The greater part of the public park is given over to grass playing fields, variously used for football, cricket etc. This is separated by a functional, two metre high wire-mesh fence from the ground to the north, which is maintained for the exclusive use of members of the Currie Rugby Football Club. Facilities within the RFC area include a small spectators' grandstand, advertising hoardings, flood-lighting columns, a score-board and a lorry container for storage of equipment.

A pathway of concrete slabs leads from the Spectators' Entrance on the riverside to the spectators' stand. The mesh fence collects leaves and rubbish, which are blown across the park and playing fields.

Other Woodland

Together with the riverside woodland, mature broadleaved planting, dominated by beech and sycamore, fringes much of the park to the south, and marks the steeper ground to the west. Young willow and scrubby undergrowth are found in the area to the east and south of the Currie RFC playing fields.

Sloping Field

A sloping field of grass, to the east of the existing park, and in the ownership of the City of Edinburgh Council, is fenced off and appears to be little used.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Public access to the south half of Mallyen Park is from Bavelaw Road/Green. Although both Mallyen Gardens (NTS) and the Rugby Club (Currie RFC) have signs at the entrance to the park, the only sign for the public park is located in woodland by the car park, well within the park boundary. There is access from Balerno High School to the park via a modern footbridge, presumably contemporary with the school. The wire mesh security fence, with locked gates, prevents public access to the north section of the park.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL

Although the park is close to the village of Balerno and the playing fields appear to be well used, little attention appears to have been given to the aesthetic appeal of the park. Although backed by mature and attractive broadleaved woodland, there are few facilities in the park to attract local residents or visitors. The approach from Bavelaw Road/Green is unattractive, cutting off the part of the drive that ran from the original gate-lodge to Mallyen House. The most obvious public entrance to the park is dominated by the Currie RFC clubhouse and by a hardcore car park, part of which is used for the storage of materials. The security fence that divides the park, and the steps and concrete slab pathway that lead to from the car park to the Currie RFC spectators' stand are strictly functional. The riverside wall is neglected and partly ruinous. The woodland appears neglected and degraded.

The park is given recognition in the *Balerno Conservation Area Character Appraisal* (2001) (para. 4.9) that also highlights the potential for its enhancement. Policy ENV 1 in the finalised *Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan* (2003), referring to Mallyen Park, seeks to expand the area of the park, by taking in the little-used sloping field to the east. Other proposals in the plan include the option to create new access points across the Water of Leith from Lanark Road West, the provision of children's play facilities, the retention and repair of the riverside boundary wall. This to be combined with more positive woodland management, both to maintain its visual character and contribution to the setting of Mallyen House and the village of Balerno, and/or to increase its habitat value. Outwith the plan, signage could be significantly improved and more could be made of attractive views from the park across and along the Water of Leith. All of this could be best achieved within the context of a comprehensive landscape management plan.



Policy woodland backdrop to park



Riverside planting beside RFC ground



Typical condition of riverside woodland



Unightly litter and leaves trapped on security fence

*The Water of Leith by Malleny
Park*



ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overall

Malleny Park has some historical interest as part of the former policies and wider setting of Malleny House. The mature broadleaved planting in and around the park makes a significant contribution to the rural character of this part of the valley of the Water of Leith, and serves as a scenic backdrop to the village of Balerno. Overall, the park has some local significance. The value and significance of the park could be increased by addressing some of its shortcomings.

Work of Art

None

Historical

Some

Horticultural / Arboricultural / Sylvicultural

Little

Architectural

None

Scenic

Some

Nature Conservation

Some

Archaeological

None (known)

Recreational

Some

Sources – Primary**Maps**

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Roy's *Military Survey of Scotland* 1747-1755 Ref 07/5a British Library via SCRAN

Armstrong, *Map of the Three Lothians*, 1773 NLS

Thomson, *Atlas of Scotland*, 1832 NLS

First edition Ordnance Survey (1852) Sheet 5 NLS

Parish map OS (1898-1904) NLS

Ordnance Survey (1914) Sheet VI NW NLS – paper copies

NLS National Library of Scotland www.nls.uk

NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland

SCRAN Scottish Cultural Resource Access Network www.scran.ac.uk

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/CACABalerno.pdf Balerno Conservation Area Character Appraisal January 2001

www.currierfc.co.uk Currie Rugby Football Club

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Additional sources not consulted

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NAS RHP 31936 1955 Plan of Malleny House and grounds
