



Pollok Country Park Heritage Trail



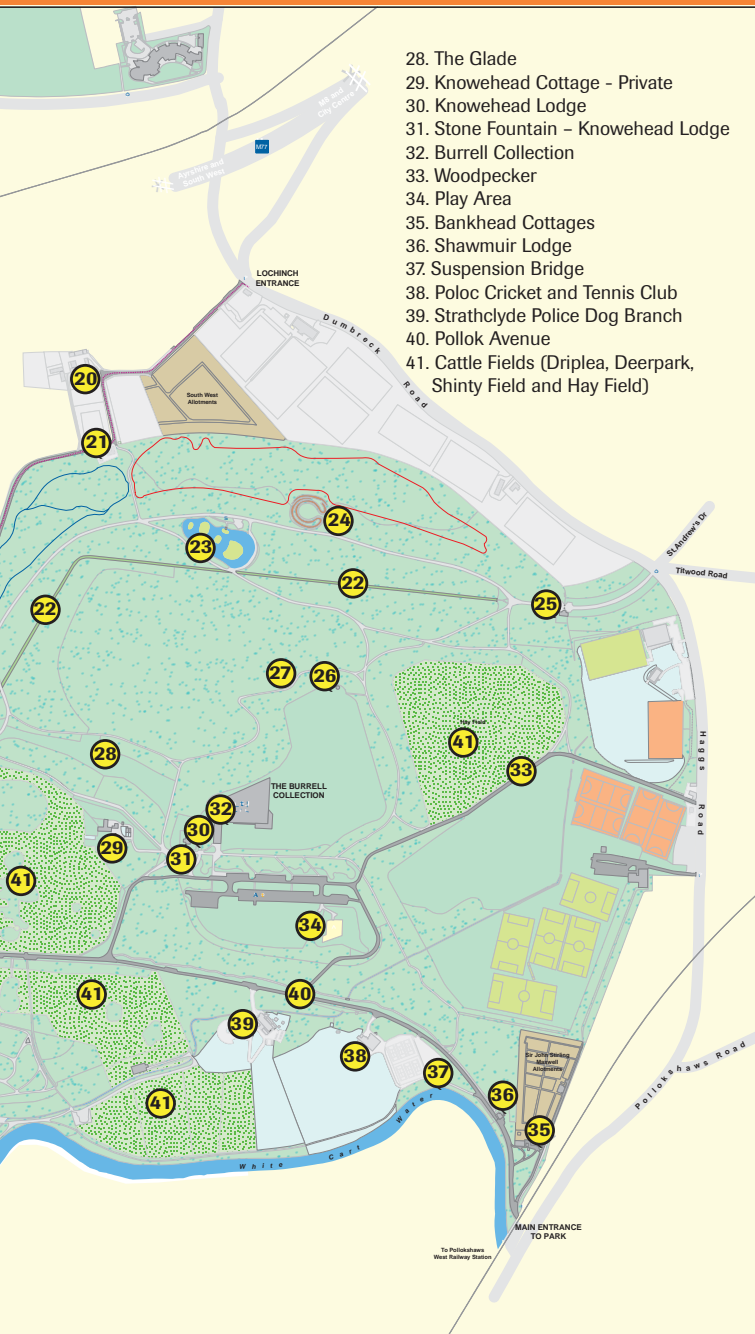
Pollok Country Park Map

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Pollok House and Gardens







Pollok Country Park Heritage Trail

On behalf of Glasgow City Council, welcome to Pollok Country Park. Please enjoy your visit. The park is located in the south west of the city just 3 miles from the city centre. It is bounded by the White Cart Water, Dumbreck Road, Haggs Road and Pollokshaws Road.

Parking is available at the Riverside Car Park adjacent to Pollok House and at the Burrell Collection.

The trail begins at Pollok House. The trail should take approximately 2 hours allowing for a brief stop at each location.

Following the suggested route will require walking along characteristically uneven ground and pathways. Suitable footwear should be worn, and it is advised that the more remote areas of the trail are visited during drier weather conditions. It is the responsibility of members of the public to please respect the privacy of those who live within the park.



The heritage trail is full of points of interest and offers a welcome retreat from the surrounding streets. Toilet facilities are located at Pollok House, the Burrell Collection and the Old Stable Courtyard. There are also opportunities to stop for something to eat and drink at Pollok House and the Burrell Collection.

Introduction

Pollok Country Park provides an exceptional understanding of the natural and built heritage of the Pollok Estate. Since being gifted to the City together with Pollok House, in 1966 by Anne Maxwell MacDonald, the Park has been the City's largest park. It is steeped in 800 years of history in one ownership, that of the Maxwell's and the Maxwell MacDonalds. It is also rich in natural history, despite being surrounded by built-up Glasgow.

The Country Park provides easy access to a designed landscape of outstanding merit with attractions for all visitors to enjoy, including the unique visitor experience of Pollok House and the internationally famous Burrell Collection.

Pollok Country Park represents the core of a once extensive Estate. The continuity of family control by the Maxwell's and their role in Scottish history is exceptional and contributes significantly to the cultural significance of the Park.

Pollok Country Park is the only designated Country Park within the City and attracts 2 million visits a year. It has extensive woodlands and gardens which provide a quiet sanctuary for both visitors and wildlife.

In 1980 Pollok Park (Nether Pollok) was placed on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, the list of nationally important landscapes in Scotland, which is maintained by Historic Scotland. Only four other landscapes from Glasgow have been recognised by inclusion on the list, (Botanic Gardens and the

Necropolis, Victoria Park and Kelvingrove Park).

In 2007, Pollok Country Park won Glasgow's first United Kingdom Best Park in Britain Award. Councillor Ruth Simpson, Executive Member for Land and Environmental Services said:

"We are truly delighted that Pollok Country Park has been judged the Best Park in Britain. We are very proud that this beautiful, green treasure, within our city has received the recognition it deserves. It is the icing on the cake for our Dear Green Place".



Following on from the Britain's Best Park Award in 2007, Pollok Country Park was crowned Europe's Best Park 2008, beating off strong competition from parks in France, Italy, Germany, Poland and Sweden. Winning in Europe is a magnificent achievement for the City.

In 1939 Sir John Stirling Maxwell made the first Conservation Agreement with the National Trust for Scotland covering Pollok Estate, in order to *'ensure the open spaces and woodlands within the area remain for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation, and in particular, the citizens of Glasgow and that the open spaces and woodlands within shall remain for the enhancement of the beauty of the neighbourhood as well as the benefits of the citizens of Glasgow.'*

The internationally acclaimed Burrell Collection was inserted into the core landscape in 1983, respecting the adjacent ancient woodland and making full use of the peace and quiet of the green space to the front. It contains many examples of visual and tactile fine art,



of all periods and from all over the world collected by William Burrell.

Pollok Country Park is extremely well maintained and the dedicated staff are knowledgeable, friendly and helpful to ensure a quality visitor experience.

Pollok Country Park Trail

Beginning at Pollok House follow the suggested route it should take approximately 2 hours allowing for a brief stop at each point of interest around the park and back again to Pollok House.

1. Pollok House, Grade 'A' Listed



Pollok House, which is currently managed by the National Trust for Scotland on behalf of Glasgow City Council, is the centrepiece of the designed landscape. It is a Georgian Mansion built between 1747 and 1752 for Sir John Maxwell the 3rd Baronet and 16th Laird of Pollok. The identity of the architect remains unknown, although William Adam was consulted in the early stages by Sir John the 2nd Baronet in 1737.

The Mansion House was built with a southerly outlook

on the north bank of the White Cart Water, to the west of the former 'Laighe' Castle. The Georgian mansion house is a 3-storey building with basement. It was originally a simple neo-classical 'box' without wings. While the exterior was austere and unassuming, with very little decoration, the interior had good quality flamboyant and stylish plasterwork.



The building layout consisted of four principal rooms on each floor with a spinal corridor connecting these rooms to the service stairs.

During the period of the 8th Baronet low (basement level) wings were added to the Mansion House and in 1860, a port-cochere was added to the north elevation. These were replaced between 1890-1904 by the architect Sir Robert Rowand Anderson (1834-1921), who designed new additional wings, terraces, pavilions, an entrance hall and gardens for Sir John Stirling Maxwell the 11th Baronet.





The House contains the remarkable Stirling Maxwell collection of Spanish paintings as well as silver ceramics and furniture collected by the family. The collection includes works by El Greco (the famous Lady in a Fur Wrap) and Goya, as well as works by the English poet and artist William Blake. Throughout the house paintings were hung formally to compliment the proportions and decoration of the interiors.

On the basement level the Edwardian kitchen and servants' quarters has been converted and restored to provide a restaurant and adjacent to it, an outside tea garden has been opened for summer use. Entry to the café, and visitors' shop, toilets and gardens is free, while a charge is made to view the rest of the house.

Upstairs, is the room where Sir John Stirling Maxwell held the inaugural meeting of the National Trust for Scotland, as well as the early meetings of the Forestry Commission of which he was at one point, chairman.



During the First World War, Pollok House was used as an auxiliary hospital and wards were set up in the billiard and dining rooms. Two flats in the 2nd floor are retained for the Maxwell Macdonald family.

2. Library and Parterre Garden



Sir John Stirling Maxwell designed the parterres and terraces, both here and at his other house at Corrour in the Highlands, sketching designs of the many country house gardens he visited for the purpose. The parterres were originally formed by clipped hedges filled with gravel. The hedges in the east parterre known as the Library Garden remain but the gravel has been replaced with bedding plants. The eastern side of the garden is edged by a knot parterre set into the bank with a diamond pattern stone framework. This would have been planted with herbs such as Chamomile and Lavender.

The south parterres have now gone and are replaced by lawns, but the terrace walls, clipped hedges and decorative iron work remain.



3. Garden Pavilions, Grade 'A' listed



The garden pavilions were designed by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson around 1901 at the same time as he carried out the additions to the house and garden terraces.

In revising plans for the garden, Anderson retained two ideas from a previous scheme, the introduction of quadrantal curves into the terrace walls, and the development of two cupola-topped pavilions. The western pavilion is connected with the Rowand Anderson service wing, whilst the eastern pavilion provides a through route from the other gardens.

4. Gateway



The gateway accessed by a semi-circular flight of

eight steps between Pollok House and the river is ornamented by two of Pollok's more static forms of wildlife - a pair of stone lions sitting on their haunches carved in the 1940's. Hew Lorimer (1907 - 1993) one of Scotland's best known sculptors, he also carved the stone urns on the terraces.

5. White Cart Bridge, Grade 'A' listed



This elegant stone bridge which spans the river was designed by William and John Adam in 1750. It bears two dates, 1757 and 1758; the earlier is possibly the starting date. The bridge is a single span ashlar balustrade structure with parapet walls consisting of forty carded balusters on each side. This would have linked the Mansion House and its stable courtyard with Polloktoun and the South Lodge gateway. The main entrances to the estate from the south would have provided a stunning approach to Pollok House.

6. War Memorial

Set into the garden wall facing the river is a war memorial dedicated to the men from the tenantry and staff of Nether Pollok, who served in the Great War, 1914-1919. The fifty eight able-bodied men who





are recorded here represent only a percentage of the farmers, stockmen, gardeners and butlers etc that were employed on the estate. Pollok Estate, a local centre of industry, must have suffered because of this loss of manpower during the war years.

7. Old Stable Courtyard, Category 'A' listed



The Old Stable Courtyard comprises of a square courtyard of 2 storey buildings. The outer wall of the east range contains a section of wall from the former medieval Laighe Castle tower c. 1536. The buildings bordering the north west and south west of the courtyard were built during the late 18th and 19th century, the north west range incorporating the handsome 17th century renaissance gateway. The extensions of these two buildings to form the quadrant, took place circa 1868, to a design by Charles Wilson at the request of Sir William Maxwell. In contrast to Pollok House, the buildings of the Courtyard do not adhere to a rigid geometry.

Originally these buildings serviced the big house. Located within the Courtyard were the factor's office, servants' quarters, coach house, stables, and milk parlour.

Today the courtyard houses the Countryside Rangers' office and Visitor Centre, offices and stores for the Park, 'Bothy' museum, dwelling houses for Park employees and stables for the park's four Clydesdale Horses. The horses are used to carry out some traditional

agricultural work in the park as well as giving dray rides to the public. The original Gardener's Bothy museum has been restored to show life as it would have been for a gardener in Pollok at the turn of the 20th century. The Visitor Centre houses displays relating to the park and its wildlife and contains many "hands-on" activities for people of all ages.

An interesting group of marriage stones can be seen embedded in the north-east wall of the inner Courtyard bearing the inscribed letters 'SIM DGB'.

8. Countryside Rangers' Office, Category 'B' listed



This simple building with its distinctive crowstep gables was reputed to be a former estate chapel. It has also been suggested that the building was later used as the battery house or power house which would have provided Pollok House with electricity. Today the building is used by the Countryside Rangers.

9. Sawmill, Category 'B' listed and Weir





The Sawmill is thought to have been in operation by 1880, and was powered using the energy of the flowing White Cart Water. Around 1890 some major changes took place; in particular a more efficient turbine was installed. The weir, one of two cascades put in by the 3rd baronet in 1757, supplied the water to the water-wheel and latterly the turbine. Commercial forestry provided a valuable source of income for the Maxwell Family. Lumber from all parts of the Estate was brought to the Sawmill and prepared for all manner of uses. There is an adjacent timber yard, complete with a crane where wood was seasoned prior to being loaded on to a wagon that ran directly along the existing rails and into the Sawmill. The Sawmill, with adjoining power house, was providing electricity for Pollok House by the turn of the century. After World War Two the Sawmill fell into disuse.

10. Wildlife Garden

This garden was started by the Countryside Ranger Service in 1989. When the Wildlife Garden is open it is well worth a short detour, particularly if you are keen on the idea of wildlife coming to your garden.

11. Works Bothy (Former Schoolhouse)



To the east of the Courtyard is the former schoolhouse, built in 1914. This building is a single storey, with a slate pitch roof. The building faces towards the former

orchard area. Today the building is the canteen facility for the grounds maintenance staff.

12. Walled Garden, Category 'B' listed



The Walled Garden is shown to the north of the courtyard on Ogilvie's 1741 map. The two acres of ground are recorded as being laid out 250 years ago as a kitchen garden and orchard with flowers and vegetables. Unlike conventional Walled Gardens, the inner face of the north wall is not clad in brick for heat retention but the wall is built entirely of stone. Around 1900 there were many glasshouses, a hot wall and melon pits. Since 1975 the garden has been laid out as a demonstration garden, with displays of vegetables, fruit and shrubs. The garden contains many features to interest both the amateur and professional gardener.





Within to the Walled Garden there are geometrical beds displaying an intricate design of annual seasonal bedding. Located against the north wall of the garden is a rock garden and water feature. Mature Yew hedges section the garden into compartments containing collections of plants such as Hostas, and herbaceous displays. These are complimented by the display within the adjacent glasshouse

13. Gazebo- Herbaceous Garden



The wooden gazebo in the centre of the garden was designed and constructed by Gordon Joss (retired) and Neil McIntyre, park employee. The timber structure is predominately made from Teak, recycled from the handrails recovered from the Clyde Tunnel and also Oak and Lime from the park.

14. Woodland Garden

The Woodland Garden is accessed from the Library Garden at Pollok House. Sir John Stirling Maxwell helped fund some of the plant-hunting



expeditions of the early 20th century to the Himalayas

and some of the plants here today represent finds on these expeditions. He developed a keen interest in Rhododendrons and bred seven recognised hybrids at Pollok.



The garden presents an opportunity to admire in one place a diversity of flowers, from February to September. Located at the east end of the garden at the junction of three paths is a Stone Urn which provides a visual focus. This Stone Urn appears to be contemporary with the wings and garden terrace additions to Pollok House in the early 20th century.



15. The Pollok Beech

The centrepiece of the Woodland Garden is the large coppiced Beech tree thought to be about 250 years old. Accessed by two flights of 18 stone steps the tree



was named in 2002 as one of the top one hundred favourite heritage trees in Scotland; trees that are notable for their historical, cultural and botanical significance. It

is growing on the mound in the Woodland Garden thought to mark the possible site of the second castle of Pollok built in the 13th century. The castle was inhabited until the sixteenth century, but was in ruins by 1710. The drawbridge had been removed by the year 1782.



16. The Beggars' Tree

A large Horse Chestnut tree that stood for centuries just outside Pollok House forecourt was known as the Beggars' Tree. In the past it was



widely accepted that the Laird had the responsibility to care for the poor of his district. The poor and destitute of the neighbourhood would sit under this tree hoping to be fed. Alms were then distributed amongst them by one of the servants from Pollok House. This practice continued right up until the 1930's. Unfortunately the tree blew down in the gales of March 1982.



The tree lives on from one of the original tree's branches being layered (a means of plant propagation), and is now a healthy young tree. This is known locally as the son of the Beggars' Tree

17. St Conal's Well

The discovery of a sandstone lined chamber beside the main entrance to Pollok House brought in the services of Glasgow Archaeological Society as there was no record of a well or cistern on any estate map. It was thought that the stone work within the chamber indicated it was a pre 17th or 18th century structure. However there may have been an earlier chamber than this as there is a strong association between Pollok and St Conal from prior to the 12th century, including a well (NS56SW18) dedicated to St Conal within the immediate locale of this chamber.

The function of the chamber is that it is most likely to be associated with the 17th century Pollok House which is shown on Robert Ogilvy's 1741 estate plan. It may either have been a cistern associated with agricultural activity, a cold house for the house or part of a drainage system for the area.

18. Lime Avenue

Directly in front of the main gates to Pollok House running north to south is an avenue of Lime trees. This double avenue was planted in 1888 as a gift



from Alexander Crum of Thornliebank to Sir John Stirling Maxwell to commemorate his 21st birthday. Each spring the avenue is illuminated by masses of Daffodils which flower along each side.

Points of interest outwith the main circular walk on the western edge of the park situated on Lochinch Road are -

19. Strathclyde Police Recreation Club - constructed during the 1970s. This comprises of a clubhouse and changing facilities which service a variety of recreational activities for members of Strathclyde Police Force.



20. Dumbreck Riding School (Private Dwelling)

- formerly Lochinch Farm this is one of several farm steadings that remain as the legacy of Pollok Estate's once extensive agricultural tenancies. The farm is indicated on Ogilvy's plan of 1741 but the present buildings appear to date from the 19th century.

21. Red Lodge (Private Dwelling) – this lodge, whilst not a main gatehouse, did historically control access into the North Wood and along Lochinch Road. The Lodge appears on the OS County Map c.1895. The Lodge is privately owned and occupied.

22. Rhododendron Walk



The Rhododendron Walk was deliberately designed as two nearly perpendicular straight lines in order to make the most of the rise and fall of the land and give long spectacular views. The Walk starting from the crest of the Lime Avenue is lined by specimen rhododendrons and ends just short of the North Lodge entrance to the park. Sir John Stirling Maxwell subscribed to the 1925 Forest Expedition and also later plant collecting visits to the Himalayas, and developed rhododendron collections at Pollok

23. The Pond



It is not known when the pond was created but it can be seen on 1860 ordnance survey maps. Its form is typically Victorian; kidney shaped and has five small islands and is fed by a local spring. It is known as the fish pond, but what sort of fish lived here and if they were for eating or just display, is still a mystery. The pond is a good resource for wildlife, particularly for wildfowl.

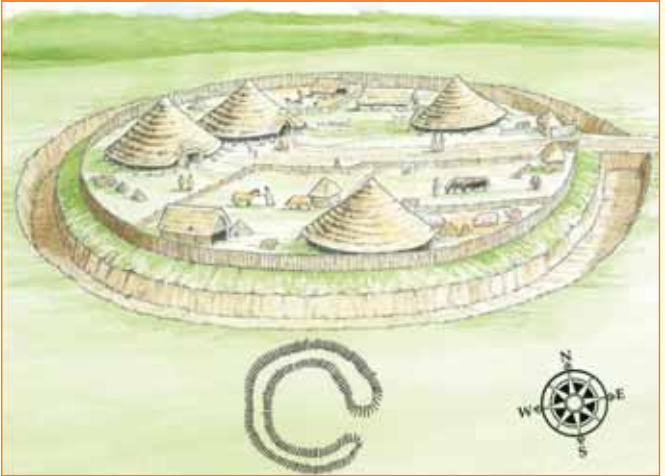
24. Ancient Fort

This archaeological feature is classified as a mediaeval 'motte' or steading castle. These features are quite common in the West of Scotland and were built mainly in the 13th and 14th Centuries. These structures (commonly built by the Normans) were originally erected for defence or as part of an observation system. This site has been described as a ring-work and tentatively identified as a medieval structure. However, on the basis of archaeological evidence reported, it is better to consider it as an Iron Age fort. An in situ hearth was discovered, which provided a suitable charcoal sample for dating purposes (300BC). This site would almost certainly have been inhabited at the time of Christ. It was also thought to have been an active site through to the 16th century.

Excavations revealed the presence of an impressive paved road starting beyond the hillfort and passing through the ramparts on a well-defined causeway. The interior contained several buildings thought to be



Artist's impression by John Tasker



All that can be seen now are two roughly circular banks with a ditch in between. When occupied, there may have been an inner bank and the ditch would have been deeper. People would have built their houses probably timber, inside the circle and kept their animals there at night for protection. Only an earth bank and ditch remain on the site of this 'earthwork or motte'.



25. North Lodge Entrance, Category 'B' listed





The North Lodge and Gateway represents the most impressive entrance to the Estate. It is approached by a clipped Beech hedge. The lodge house and adjoining gate piers are honey coloured sandstone. The lodge is a single storey cottage in Scots renaissance style designed by Sir Robert Rowan Anderson and completed in 1892. It has a semi-circular bow which projects towards the gate piers giving unimpeded views of the drive. The lodge walls bear the Maxwell Family motto *'I am ready gang forward'* and the date 1892 in Roman numerals (MDCCCXCII)

The gateway has four piers, which define a central vehicular gate and two pedestrian side gates. The central gate piers are taller and are surmounted by stone lions carved by the sculptor Hew Lorimer.

26. Gazebo – Burrell Field



At the top of the Burrell Field the wooden gazebo sits



on the site of a former pavilion built around 1930s, and demolished sometime after 1975. The gazebo was built in the mid 1990s by Gordon Joss (retired) and Neil McIntyre, park employees using timber from the park.



27. Small Farmstead

There is another less distinctive ring-work located in the North Wood south of the fort. This Medieval Ring-work consisted of a rectangular building, an earthen bank and boundary bank and ditch which enclosed the area. The building had been set up against the inside of the ring-work bank. From their rudimentary construction it seemed unlikely that these walls ever stood more than a couple of course high and probably supported a turf walled building. Indications suggest that this structure is predominately 14th to 16th century which suggests that is late medieval in date.

It has been suggested that the ring-work is more likely to be some sort of agricultural feature, possibly originally defining a farm yard rather than a defensive ring.

28. The Glade



The Glade is part of the designed landscape of the park with vistas through to a group twelve Silver Birch trees. The original birches were planted over 100 years ago to represent the 12 apostles. Native Birch trees are pioneer species and one of shortest lived trees. The original native Silver Birch have been replaced with twelve Himalayan Birches. During 2009

when a pond was being excavated a number of items of pottery were found along with a large stone water trough. This trough would probably have been



used by the estate farm-steadings of East Mains and potentially Knowehead to feed their livestock.

29. Knowehead Cottage (private dwelling)

Knowehead Cottage comprises of a number of buildings which represented the former farmsteadings. Historic floor plans indicate the presence of a farm in the location c1750 and during the 19th century, this was a significant range of buildings. The buildings are all constructed in blond-brown sandstone with pitched slate roofs. The Cottage is privately owned and occupied.



30. Knowehead Lodge



The Lodge was built in the early 1900s to house the gamekeeper or head gardener. The building is also of blond sandstone using rusticated and smooth ashlar. It is subtly 'arts & crafts' in style with crow step gables. The Lodge is now the office for Pollok Country Park management.

31. Stone Fountain



It is unclear who designed or when this elegant stone drinking fountain was built. However, the stonework with lion heads and cascading garlands of flowers looks contemporary with the wings and garden terrace additions to Pollok House in the early 20th century.

32. Burrell Collection



The Burrell is Glasgow's third purpose built museum and art gallery. It was designed as a showcase for one collection of almost 9,000 items, given to the City of Glasgow in 1944 by Sir William and Lady Burrell. The collection is wide-ranging and diverse from ancient Chinese ceramics to European decorative arts from the 12th to the 18th centuries. The building was the result of a 1972 architectural competition, and opened in 1983. Care was taken by the three young architects Barry Gasson, John Meunier and Bret Anderson to ensure harmony between the building and its collections, and the park that it is situated in. It sits close to the adjacent ancient woodland of the North Wood, benefiting from this proximity from outstanding views behind some of the exhibits.

Natural materials – glass, pine and ash wood, Portland stone and red sandstone quarried from Dumfriesshire were used further underlining its association with nature. The building is clad in red sandstone with extensive glazed walls. It steps down in levels towards its south-eastern corner which accommodates the glazed basement café.

Over 300,000 visitors visit the Burrell annually.



This would be the perfect opportunity to take a comfort break from the trail for refreshments in the museum's basement café.

33. Woodpecker



A point of interest off the main circular route on the exit road towards Hags Road is an eye-catching, oversized, woodpecker carved from the trunk of a tree nestled within the beech hedge. Gordon Joss (retired) carved it using only a chainsaw from an existing tree felled in 1996.

34. Play area



This modern play area was completed in March 2005 with a second phase added in 2009. The majority of the equipment is of wooden construction in keeping with the surrounding environs. It has a variety of play equipment providing adventurous and traditional play opportunities for children from toddler to young teenager allowing for imagination and fun.

35. Bankhead Cottages

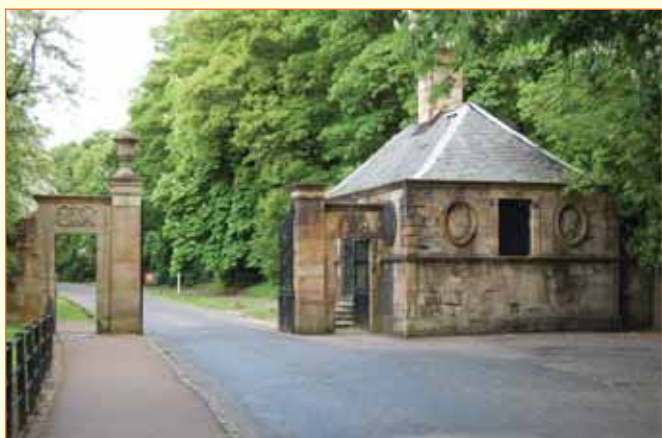


These cottages appear originally on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, annotated as 'School', on the 2nd Edition OS are called 'Shawmuir Cottages', and on the 3rd Edition OS and subsequent editions are called 'Bankhead Cottages'. Both cottages date from before c.1860 and after c.1895 would have been tied houses



for the estate's employees. Today they are still used as tied houses for park employees.

36. Shawmuir Lodge Category 'B' listed



The Shawmuir Lodge and Gateway is also of architectural merit but its treed setting inside the railway embankment makes it less noticeable and less impressive than the North Gate. Presumably designed by Sir Robert Rowan Anderson, in a similar style to the North and South Lodges, Shawmuir Lodge was completed in 1891 and stands at the main entrance to the Park. The Lodge was built after construction of the railway sidings caused closure of the historical link between Pollok Avenue and Maxwell Street. This resulted in Pollok Avenue deviating from its original straight axis, curving southwards parallel with the river to allow it to pass under the railway viaduct. The Lodge and gateway was built on the realigned section of Pollok Avenue, set into the embankment.

The Lodge is single storey constructed with honey coloured sandstone with carved oval shields/crests on its south and east elevations. The Lodge gateway has a pair of tall square Gate piers with urns, which carry ornamental iron gates.

37. Suspension Bridge



An interesting feature nearby to Pollok Avenue is the remains of a pedestrian suspension bridge. A concrete plinth and steel stanchions can be seen on both banks of the White Cart Water close to the tennis courts. It is likely that the bridge was installed for the convenience of city-estate-bound workers arriving at Pollokshaws West railway station when it and the railway viaduct over the river were constructed in 1847. The bridge was in use up until the Second World War, but was dismantled not long afterwards.

38. Poloc Cricket and Tennis Club



The cricket club has been in its present location since 1880. Founded in 1878, Poloc Cricket Club spent its first season on the site of the old Pollokshaws Race



Course. The original pavilion dates to around 1912 and by 1933 tennis courts had been added and the pavilion relocated to its current site. The pavilion is 1½ storey constructed of rendered brickwork with timber veranda above terraced steps facing the pitch.

39. Strathclyde Police Dog Branch

The Strathclyde Police Dogs' unit is located to the south of Pollok Avenue. The building dates from c. 1970 and is constructed from brick. This facility is the National Centre in Scotland for training police dogs. This area is restricted to Police personnel only.

40. Pollok Avenue



Pollok Avenue extends from Pollokshaws Road to Pollok House and is the main access route into the Country Park. It originally ran from Maxwell Street (now Pollokshaws Road) in a line north of the allotments until 1845, when the Barrhead to Glasgow Railway line was built on the eastern edge of the Estate. This resulted in the realignment of Pollok Avenue following the river allowing it to pass under the railway viaduct as seen today.



41. Deerpark and Driplea Fields



These fields on both sides of Pollok Avenue are key grazing areas which reinforce the agricultural characteristic of the estate and allow visitors to view the Highland Cattle. The northern field is called the Deerpark where Fallow Deer were kept until the First World War. One of the Estate's old farmsteads (West Mains) was sited within this field. These 17th/18th century farmsteads were grouped around the successive castles which lay in the heart of the Estate. Look for the old rigg and furrow undulations in the pasture running up the field, at 90 degrees to the road. Found especially on clay soils due to land being constantly ploughed in the same manner to give 5 or 7 yard 'riggs'.



In recent years archaeologists from Glasgow University discovered the remnants of a medieval road which ran from the south side of the River Cart over the ford in front of Pollok House up through the Deerpark and passed the Burrell.



This brings you back to the House to the end of Pollok Country Park Heritage Trail; we hope you have found it insightful and enjoyable. Why not visit Pollok House café for refreshments.

Early History of Pollok Estate

12th Century

Documentary records of Pollok begin at the end of the 12th century when (the lands of) Pollok formed part of the extensive estates which were granted by King David I to Alan Fitz-Walter the High Steward of Scotland, about the year 1124. The grant of David was confirmed by his grandson, King Malcolm IV, in 1157-58, Act of Parliament of Scotland. A part of the lands of Pollok, forming the upper division, appear to have been bestowed by the High Steward on Peter, son of Fulbert, who was one of his followers, and was the first person to use Pollock as a surname.

The lands were divided into Upper and Lower Pollok. The Pollocks retained upper Pollok while Lower Pollok was chartered to the Maxwell's. The Maxwell's of Pollok became a prominent branch of that powerful border clan.

By the start of the 13th century the lands of Pollok were clearly under agricultural management and development. Whilst the main concentration appears to be in the vicinity of the White Cart Water, ring-works in North Wood suggests that this location was of strategic importance dating back to a much earlier period.

Polloktoun

Situated on the south bank of the White Cart Water opposite where Pollok House stands today was the settlement known as 'Polloktoun'. The date of its establishment is unclear although it was recorded that in c. 1494, John Maxwell, 3rd Lord, granted 'four merks' worth of land on the south side of the town of 'Nedder Pollok' to his eldest son John and his wife Margaret Blair. The settlement almost certainly existed before then as its church, the Church of Polloc, was referred to in a Papal Bull in 1265. The Church of Polloc, thought to have stood on the bank of the Cart, was dedicated to St. Convallus an Irish Saint who taught Christianity in the 7th century.

In 1708, 244 persons were recorded in Polloktoun and in Robert Ogilvy's plan of 1741, 36 houses and gardens are shown arranged along several streets. In c. 1798, the village was demolished. The inhabitants were relocated to Bogles Bridge, a small settlement centred round a mill where the Auldhouse burn flows into the Cart. All that remains of the original township is a dove-cote, dated 1682. The remains of this 17th century dove-cote sit adjacent to the weir. Pigeons were a valuable source of fresh meat in the winter months for the villagers when other meat was not readily available.

Witches in Polloktoun

Sir George Maxwell of Pollok was an enthusiastic witch hunter and took part in a witch trial at Gourock in 1676. Soon after this he suffered an illness which could not be diagnosed. A vagrant deaf mute teenage girl had just appeared at Pollok Castle frequenting the servants' quarters. She identified by signs that the illness suffered by the Laird was due to the actions of a witch. Accompanied by two servants, she went to the house in Polloktoun of Janet Mathie, where a wax picture with pins in the side was found in a hole behind the fire. This was accepted as conclusive evidence that Janet was a witch who had caused the illness.

Sir George recovered, but later had a relapse and died in January 1677.



The girl then uncovered more evidence implicating the son of John Stewart and the daughter of Janet. The Privy Council

appointed a commission to try the women and young man for witchcraft, they were all found guilty and condemned to death at Paisley in February 1677.

This remarkable case was first published in 1685 by Professor Sinclair of Glasgow in his book entitled *“Satan’s Invisible World Discovered”*, and republished in the History of the Witches of Renfrewshire.

The Maxwells at Pollok

13th Century

Since the late 13th century the Maxwell Family have been associated with estate land at Pollok with the castle or main dwelling house being located by the river.

The first known owner at Pollok was Rolland de Mearns, whose heiress; Mary married Sir Aymer Maxwell of Caerlaverock thus acquiring the two estates: Upper and Nether Pollok. In 1270 Sir Aymer granted part of his estates ‘Nether Pollok’, to his second son, Sir John Maxwell, traditionally the 1st Knight of Pollok and probably the builder of the earliest castle or tower-house, adjacent to the White Cart Water, on the site of the later stable courtyard.

Legend has it that at this spot the river formed a small pool, or ‘pollag’ in Gaelic from which the name Pollok is thought to have been derived.

The adjacent lands of Mearns belonged to Sir John’s brother, Sir Herbert Maxwell of Caerlaverock.

14th – 16th Century

The 14th century saw the consolidation of the

Maxwell's at Pollok and the construction of two castles in the latter part of the century. The second castle was built on an eminence about 300 yards to the north of the first. A formalised mound and large Beech tree in the centre of the Woodland Garden now marks its site. This development may reflect a deliberate attempt to enhance the defences of the castle or to reduce the possibilities



of flooding. Another “laighe” or low castle (the third Pollok castle) was built partially on the site and ruins of the original one, or incorporated within the remains of it. This was probably built c. 1367 by Sir John Maxwell and his wife Isabella Lindsay the year they were married. It was used as a secondary or dower house – (a purpose for which nearby Haggis Castle (1584-85) was subsequently used). This ‘laighe’ castle continued to be one of the residences of the family until 1747 when it was demolished by Sir John Maxwell the 3rd Baronet. Parts of the ‘laighe’ castle remain in the east wall of the Old Stable Courtyard.



In 1568, Lord Robert Maxwell and his uncle Sir John Maxwell, then Lord Herries, fought for Mary, Queen of Scots at the Battle of Langside (13 May 1568) and, after her defeat there, carried her in safety to Dundrennan Abbey. A letter that Queen Mary wrote to Sir John



Maxwell on the 5th May 1568 desiring him to join her at Hamilton is still carefully preserved at Pollok.

Extract –

“Traist Friend, we greit yow weill. We dowt not bot ye know that God of his gudeness hes put ws at libertie’ quhome we thank maist hartlie: Quhare-for desyris you, with all possible diligence, fail not to be heir at ws in Hammyltoun with all your folkis, friendis and serwandis bodin in feir of weir: as ye will do us acceptable service and plessouris: Becaws we know your constance, we neid not at this present to mauk longer lettre: bot will byd yow fair weill. Off Hammyltoun the V of Maij 1568”

(Signed) “Maire R



Sir John’s fidelity to Queen Mary brought him into trouble with the Regent Moray the protector of the young King James VI. The estate of Pollok was escheated to the Crown as punishment. On the 9th of September 1568, Sir John obtained a remission from his Majesty for appearing in arms against him at the battle of Langside. After much negotiation and payment of a sum of money, Sir John regained possession of the estates of Pollok in September 1569.

17th Century

The 17th century brought mixed fortunes to the Maxwell family. In 1625, mounting debts led to the appraising

of the lands of Nether Pollok, Pollokshaws, Tytwood (Titwood), Hagsis (Haggs) and others from Sir John Maxwell. In 1645 the debts which necessitated the sale of 1625 had been settled and Maxwell was able to re-acquire the family's Estate.

From around 1650 the continental practice of storing ice for use in the spring and summer began to spread to the wealthier estates throughout Britain. The Ice House at Pollok Estate was located in an unusual remote location south east of the Mansion House. It would probably have been constructed in a pit lined with blocks of stone, with the roof at ground level covered with turf. The principle was that the low temperature underground allowed ice storage.

18th Century

The main dwelling house remained the medieval castle, until a Mansion House was built to provide a more comfortable style of living. First proposed in 1737, the 2nd Baronet, Sir John, commissioned plans for a modern mansion house which was not built until 1750-52. The identity of the architect remains unknown, although it is recorded that William Adam was consulted in the early stages by Sir John.



The new mansion house was an austere classical box commanding extensive views over parkland from its slightly elevated position north of the river and to the west of the previous two castles. Sir John died before it was completed and it was left to his son, also Sir John, to finish the work. Its site placed it above the level of



floodwaters, with a southerly prospect interrupted by the presence on the opposite bank of the small township of Pollokton. In c. 1798, the village was demolished allegedly to improve the view from the new Pollok House. The settlement was considered to be an eyesore, not being compatible with the then fashionable concept of a planned rural landscape in estates such as Pollok.

After a quick succession of lairds, the 7th Baronet, Sir John Maxwell, inherited in 1785. Sir John and his wife Lady Hannah were known as improvers, Sir John concentrating on agriculture and silviculture improvements, while Lady Hannah improved the gardens. She also painted the house and its setting in a series of watercolours around 1820. Sir John imported plant material from many countries, planted up the estate and added to the existing woodlands.

19th – 20th Century

After Sir John's death in 1844, the estate was inherited by his son John Maxwell (1791-1865), the 8th Baronet who married Lady Matilda the second daughter of Thomas Bruce, 7th Earl of Elgin, in 1839.

The couple had no children and after Sir John's death in 1865 their nephew William Stirling Maxwell inherited.



Lady Matilda died on the 31st of August 1857 and is interned in the family burying-vault in Eastwood Churchyard now Old Eastwood Cemetery.

Part of the memorial window in Glasgow Cathedral is dedicated to Lady Matilda Maxwell of Pollok.



Inscription

'ERECTED-IN-MEMORY-OF-MATILDA-HARRIET-(1802-1857)-2d. DA-OF-THOS-EARL-OF-ELGIN-WHO-DIED-AUG-1857-BY-HER-HUSBAND-SIR-JOHN-MAXWELL-OF-POLOC-BART'

The original memorial window was replaced in 1939.

William Stirling of Keir, who then took the name Stirling-Maxwell, spent most of his time at Keir where he developed the gardens there. William died in 1878 but Pollok House was destined to remain empty over the next decade until Sir John Stirling Maxwell (1866-1956), came of age in 1888 when he was given the choice of two estates, Pollok and Keir, and he chose Pollok. An avenue of Lime trees to the north of the house was planted as a gift for his coming of age and remains a splendid feature today. In 1901 he married the daughter of Sir Herbert Maxwell, a renowned horticulturist and writer.



Sir John who was an expert propagator of Rhododendrons, breeding several recognised hybrids at Pollok largely created the gardens consisting mainly of trees and shrubs such as Magnolias and Azaleas. As Rhododendrons were of particular interest to Sir John, they feature extensively throughout the grounds. He named many of the Pollok bred cultivars after his friends and acquaintances.



Sir John became associated with the Cartha Athletic Club in 1891 and became its Patron in 1897-1905.

In 1911, Sir John Stirling Maxwell granted Glasgow Corporation a rent free lease of 121 acres of Pollok Estate, for use as a public park.



Sir John became Chairman of the Forestry Commission and a founder member of the National Trust for Scotland. In 1939 Sir John made the first Conservation Agreement with the National Trust for Scotland, covering part of the parkland which imposed stringent conditions aimed at preserving the natural and built heritage of Pollok Estate for future generations.



This was expressed clearly in the first item of the Agreement:

“It is desired by Nether Pollok that the area shall remain for ever for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation and in particular the citizens of Glasgow and that the open spaces and woodlands within the area shall remain for the enhancement of the beauty of the neighbourhood as well as for the benefit of the public and in particular the citizens of Glasgow”.

Sir John carried out extensive tree planting programmes on the estate in the first half of the 20th century,

including the rehabilitation of the disused coal mine at Lochinch, probably the first such attempt in Scotland.

Sir John died in 1956 and was succeeded by his daughter Mrs Anne Maxwell MacDonald who, in 1966-67 gifted Pollok House and 361 acres of Pollok Park to the City of Glasgow.

This action was significant in introducing large volumes of visitors into the landscape and by 1981 the area had been designated a Country Park.



Permission James Morgan

Since 1998, the National Trust for Scotland has managed Pollok House on behalf of the City of Glasgow and the area of Pollok Country Park now stands at 378 acres.

Parkland



Pollok Country Park has many different uses including grazing land for the fold of Highland Cattle; sports pitches to the north and west of the estate; allotments, play area, the Police Dog Training Unit in the south of the park; and two museums, the Burrell Collection and Pollok House. Its ancient woodland, primarily the North Wood, together with the structural woodland planting



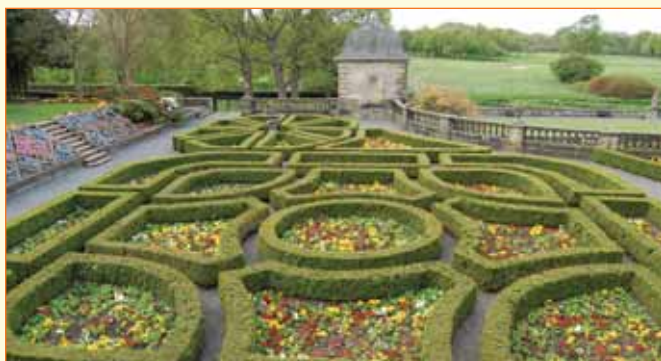
were all designed to provide a peaceful green space inside which could be enjoyed without disturbance or views from outside.

The former south drive is no longer open as a driveway, being gated south of the river; this sweeping drive would, in the past, have provided a stunning approach to the house. The 1888 double Lime Avenue is a dominant feature to the north of the house leading onto the Rhododendron Walk passed the pond. The East Lime Avenue, east of the house was originally planted during 1756-1796 and was divided when the railway was put in during 1845.

There were some famous Wych Elms on the banks of the river a little to the east of the mansion house which were noteworthy in 1822; two were blown down in 1894 and two were felled in 1905, when they were recorded as about 300 years old.



Gardens



The formal garden and terraces around Pollok House was designed by the 10th Baronet shortly after he came to Pollok. The design included terraces to the south and east of the house with symmetrical low box hedge beds in-filled with gravel. The south parterres on the lower south terrace have been replaced by lawns, but the terrace walls, clipped hedges and decorative ironwork remain. The garden is an attractive design which steps down southwards towards the White Cart Water and up eastwards towards the woodland garden.



The Walled Garden to the east of Pollok House was laid out 250 years ago as a kitchen garden for the Mansion House. Today it is laid out in a series of areas displaying particular groups of plants such as formal annual bedding, herbaceous, dahlias, herb and cottage garden and a vegetable and fruit garden.



There is also a small arboretum with a collection of 40 semi to early mature trees: Purple Japanese Maple, Sequoiadendron, Larch, and Weeping Purple Beech to name but a few.



Woodland



The woodlands in the park cover 160 acres, approximately 50% of the park. The largest area of old woodland is part of the North Wood which has existed since 1741, with 200 year old Oak and Beech amongst a mix of younger species, with a Yew understorey. There are old trees of Beech, Sycamore and Oak throughout the park, the most notable being the veteran Pollok Beech, one of Scotland's heritage trees. Much of the tree planting took place during the latter half of the 19th century; this included the park roundels and the shelterbelts along the lower field boundaries. The 10th Baronet undertook both replanting and new planting programmes from the late 19th century onwards, particularly in the north of the park, where Beech, Sycamore and Corsican Pine species were used.



Along with the many familiar tree species more unusual species were planted by Sir John Stirling Maxwell such as Red and Turkey Oaks, Fern-leaved and Dawyck Beeches.

Sir William Burrell



William Burrell was born on 9th July 1861, the third of nine children. Burrell entered the family shipping firm in 1875, and on his father's death, took over the running of it with his brother. The brothers amassed a large fortune and William entered into politics where he was active in the setting up

of the Glasgow International Art Exhibition of 1901 held in Kelvingrove Park. This Exhibition was intended to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Great Exhibition held at the Crystal Palace in 1851.

At the age of 40 he married Constance Mitchell, daughter of another ship-owner and together with his family moved to a "Greek" Thomson designed house in Great Western Road.

Having sold most of his ships during the First World War, Burrell effectively retired and devoted the rest of his life to being an art collector. He was knighted in 1927 for his public work and services to art.

Sir William amassed a comprehensive collection of North European decorative arts particularly of the 14th – 17th century. He had a good eye for a bargain – a 14th century Chinese porcelain ewer was bought for £85 and is now worth over £250,000.





In 1944, Sir William Burrell and his wife, Constance, Lady Burrell gifted his collection of over 9,000 works of art to the City of Glasgow along with £250,000 to construct a building to house it. A detailed Deed of Gift accompanied the collection prescribing a countryside location with clean air conditions for the building in which the collection was to be housed. Such a location proved impossible to find for many decades and it was not until 1983 that a building for the Burrell Collection in the rural setting of Pollok Country Park was eventually completed.



Allotments

The modern notion of allotment came into being during the 19th century, when people from the country went to work and live in towns and cities. There was poverty and what the Victorians called 'degeneracy' amongst the working class. In the Victorian scheme of things, allotments provided an alternative to drink and other unworthy pursuits for the poor.

Pollok Country Park has two private allotment sites within its grounds, records from c.1895 shows an allotment site on the Sir John Stirling Maxwell site in the south east corner of the park which has around 122 allotment gardens. Sir John provided the site for the people of Pollokshaws, to encourage them to produce their own vegetables. The second site at Dumbreck is smaller with 68 allotments was not established until the early 1930s.

During World War 2 allotments became really popular as a major food provider as many farm-workers went to the war.

Clydesdale Horses



Clydesdale Horses are Scotland's native breed of heavy horse. Famous for their strength, stamina, willing temperament and ability to pull heavy loads, Clydesdales played a vital role in Glasgow's agricultural, merchant and industrial past.

Clydesdales originated in the Lanarkshire area of Scotland where in the early 18th century the 6th Duke of Hamilton imported six, black Flemish stallions to improve the strength and size of Clydesdale's heavy horse. The resultant cross of these tall, dark stallions with local mares produced a new breed of very tall, exceptionally strong and docile horses with a shaggy coat, thick mane and feathered legs of the local mares that suited the Scottish climate.





Before the development of the internal combustion engine, heavy horses were a source of power used to transport goods and people, deliver milk, uplift rubbish, all the tasks that are associated with the work of tractors and motorised vehicles today.

Sir William Stirling-Maxwell of Pollok, 9th Baronet 1818 – 1878 was a renowned breeder for Clydesdales. He was a founding member and first Vice president of the Clydesdale Horse Society.

Notable horses from his stables include, Netty an outstandingly beautiful, bay mare who after winning first prize at Highland and Agricultural Society 1877 Show (now known as the Royal Highland Show) was selected to have her portrait painted by the society's artist as being the most perfect specimen of the Clydesdale breed.

His favourite horse was the famous “Keir Peggy” a powerful, tall, dark bay horse regarded to be the most valuable mare ever reared in the west of Scotland. She distinguished herself both in the ring show and as an outstanding brood mare, many renowned Clydesdale Champions are direct descendants to this mare.

Sir William Stirling-Maxwell and his stable of Champion Clydesdales played an intrinsic role in defining the breed known today.

The Clydesdale Horse still plays a vital role in the Country Park today. They attract large numbers of visitors who enjoy watching them being shod, groomed and providing dray rides.

Two of Pollok's Clydesdales are the models behind Glasgow sculptor Andy Scott's the “Kelpie heads” two 114ft / 35metre high nodding Clydesdale heads which will form an integral part of an ingenious boat lifting mechanism on the Forth and Clyde Canal between Falkirk and Grangemouth.

Highland Cattle



Pollok Country Park is home to Glasgow City Council's pedigree fold of Highland Cattle. Highlanders have a long association with Pollok Estate, as the Maxwell Family, were breeding prizewinning cattle here in the early 19th century.

The Highland and Agricultural Society Show (now the Royal Highland Show held annually in Edinburgh) used to tour round Scotland and in 1826 the show was staged in Glasgow Green. An extract from the Awards to Highland Cattle at the show read:

"Sir John Maxwell of Pollok, Baronet, exhibited as Extra Stock two four year old heifers, a black and a brindle and considered by many judges as the best stock exhibited at the Show. An honorary medal was awarded for this lot."

The Highland cattle have virtually become a 'brand image' of Pollok Country Park. Today the cattle number approximately 100 animals and each animal is named, traditionally in the Gaelic, following family names. The original colour of the breed was black; however, today red is the most popular colour. Highland Cattle from the Pollok Fold are shown at local and national agricultural shows around the country bringing accolades to the City. They have won the Highland Cattle Society Award for Show Fold of the year, three times, 1995, 2004 and 2009.



Pollok Woodland Trails



There are 3 self guided trails graded easy within Pollok's North Woods, each of varying distance. The Burrell Walk is just over half a mile, suitable for families. An added loop takes in the Pond and Iron Age Fort, and finally the Highland Cattle Way is a 2 mile circular, encompassing most of the woodland area. Routes are way-marked with colourful interpretation boards along the way.

Outline Chronology

c. 1124 King David 1 grants land to High Steward of Scotland

1157 King Malcolm IV confirms land granted by King David 1

c. 1200 Land divided into upper and lower Pollok

1270 Sir Aymer Maxwell grants Nether Pollok to his 3rd son John who built the first Pollok Castle beside the White Cart Water.

In the early 13th century the second Pollok Castle was built north of the first castle

c. 1367 The 'Laighe castle' Pollok's third castle was built on the site of the original castle

c. 1494 Village of Polloktoun established

1568 Sir John Maxwell, 12th laird, fought with Mary Queen of Scots at the Battle of Langside

1737 Sir John, 2nd Baronet, commissioned plans for a modern mansion house

1741 Ogilvie's map shows the Walled Garden to the north of the Old Stable Courtyard

1750/52 Pollok House built

1757/58 White Cart stone bridge built

1757 Two cascades were built on either side of the stone bridge

1785 Sir John, 7th Baronet, and his wife Lady Hannah concentrated on agriculture and built improvements and developed the gardens

1798 Pollokton demolished

1826 Maxwell Family's two four year old heifers awarded honorary medal for best stock at the Highland and Agricultural Society Show.

1845 Barrhead to Glasgow railway line built

c. 1860 Sawmill developed

1861 William Burrell born

1877 Sir William Stirling Maxwell's Clydesdale Horse wins first prize at the Highland and Agricultural Society Show.

1878 Poloc Cricket Club founded

1888 Avenue of Lime trees planted to honour Sir John Stirling Maxwell's coming of age

1890/1904 New entrance hall and two wings added to Pollok House

c. 1895 Records show first allotment site in the south east corner of the park

1901 Garden pavilions and terraces added to Pollok House

1911 Glasgow Corporation lease 121 acres of Pollok Estate as a public park

1944 William Burrell and his wife Constance gift their collection to the City of Glasgow

1939 Sir John Stirling Maxwell makes a Conservation Agreement with the National Trust for Scotland covering Pollok Estate, in order to ensure the open spaces and woodlands within the area remain for the benefit and enjoyment of the nation, and citizens of Glasgow.



1956 Sir John Stirling Maxwell died and was succeeded by his daughter Anne Maxwell MacDonald

1966/67 Pollok House and 361 acres of Pollok Estate gifted to City of Glasgow

1980 Pollok Park (Nether Pollok) included on Historic Scotland Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes

1981 Pollok Park designated as a Country Park

1983 Burrell Collection opens

1989 Wildlife Garden developed

1990 Glasgow Year of Culture saw a number of Henry Moore Statues sited on the main field adjacent to the Burrell Collection.

1990 Clydesdale Horses (Rocky and Ranger) were introduced to Pollok Country Park

1997 As a result of building the M77 motorway through eastern margin of Pollok Estate, a further 17 acres was added to the Park at Corkerhill

1998 National Trust for Scotland manage Pollok House on behalf of Glasgow City Council

2007 Pollok Country Park named Best Park in Britain

2008 Pollok Country Park crowned Best Park in Europe

Know the Code before you go



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

Everyone has the right to be on most land and inland water providing they act responsibly. Your access rights and responsibilities are explained fully in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Whether you're in the outdoors or managing the outdoors,

the key things are to:

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.

Visit www.outdooraccess-scotland.com

or contact your local Scottish Natural Heritage office.

Travel Information

- Train – Trains run from Glasgow Central Station to Pollokshaws West Railway Station which is a 2-minute walk from the park entrance
- Bus – Various routes operate from the city centre to Pollokshaws Road.
- Shuttle Bus – There is a shuttle bus service which operates at selected times from Pollokshaws Road entrance to Pollok House and the Burrell Collection – contact the Country Park direct for details – 0141 636 6920.
- Car – From the M77, exit at junction 1 or 2 and follow the signs for the Burrell Collection. Parking is available at Pollok House and the Burrell Collection.
- Cycling – the park forms part of the Glasgow to Irvine and Ardrossan National Cycle Routes (Nos 7 and 75)
- Walking – Access is available from Dumbreck Road or Pollokshaws Road, St Andrews Drive, Haggs Road and Corkerhill Road.



Further Information

- Pollok Country Park -
telephone 0141 636 6920 - 0141 276 0924
- Pollok House – telephone 0141 616 6410
- Burrell Collection – telephone 0141 287 2550





Pollok House c.1850



Guid Man's Road c.1900



Shawmuir Lodge Entrance c.1910



Pollok Avenue c.1900



Pollok House c. 1850



Rhododendron Walk c.1900



The Mid Walk c.1900



The South Garden c.1914



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Land and Environmental Services
231 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RX
Phone 0141 287 5064
E-mail LES@land.glasgow.gov.uk
Link to Pollok Country Park website: www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks**



Acknowledgements

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