

**REVIEW OF OLD MAPPING and ANCIENT WOODLAND
LOMOND BANKS MASTERPLANNING PROPOSAL
EIA AND PPP APPLICATION – UPDATE JANUARY 2023**

Sources -

National Library of Scotland

NaturesScot Ancient Woodland Inventory

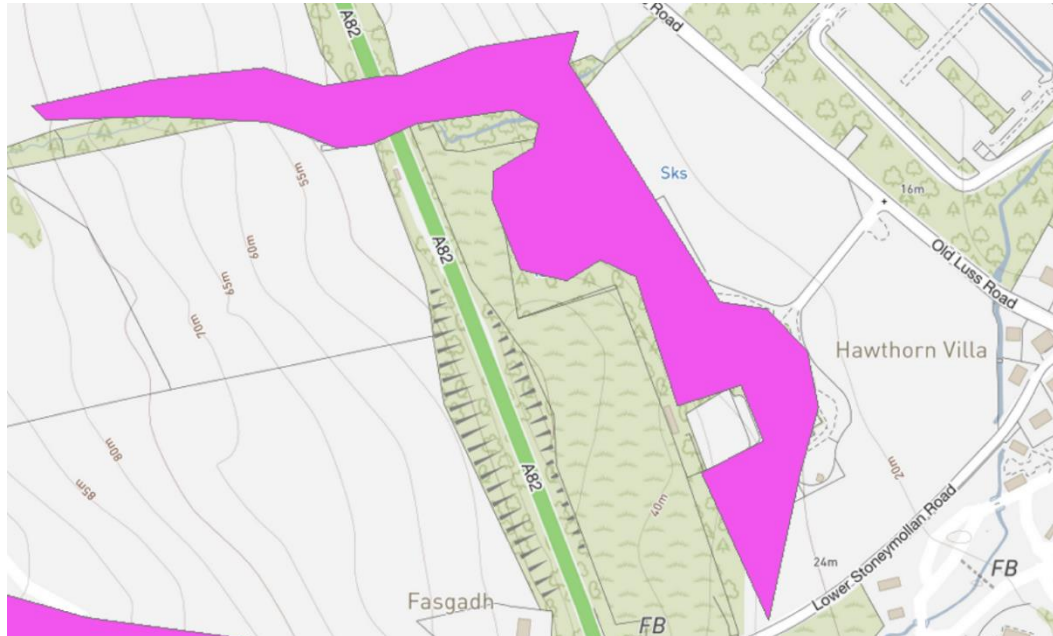
WOODBANK AND MANAGED WOODLAND AREAS

Site boundary and reference points referred to -



General observation on AWI shape - the Ancient Woodland Inventory shape around Woodbank House is slightly rotated relative to current features and is positioned about 20 metres farther north and about 10 metres farther east than current and past features indicate.

Extract shape from Ancient Woodland Inventory for Woodbank area–



25 inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1860 published 1862

This shows much of the current AWI shape as woodland (broadleaf with occasional conifer symbols). A notable exception is a triangular area to the south (reference area A).

Old mapping suggests reference point B as being under tree cover, although this is apparently not part of the AWI shape.

A path already existed along and just inside the east woodland edge by then, linking the house and stables to a designed landscape feature in the northwest corner (reference point C), possibly a walled garden.

The tree cover to the east northeast of the house and stables is indicated as about the same as current.

The stables (reference point D) is depicted at its present position but this contradicts the AWI shape.

The walled garden at the west of the house (reference point E) is not yet shown on the OS mapping.

25 inch 2nd and later editions, Scotland, revision 1897 published 1898

The walled garden at reference point E is shown as cleared. The former feature at ref point C is no longer shown.

The triangular area at reference point A is still shown as clear, up to the walled garden (reference area G). The area between the house and the walled garden (ref point H) is substantially clear.

A cleared rectilinear area at reference point F is shown for the first time.

The now-derelict building at point J and its surrounding area cleared is shown.

A continuous second path around the west perimeter is shown. The area between this and the boundary is shown as clear.

The woodland edge between the original path and the field is shown as clear.

Another path is shown cutting across the hillside northeast of the walled garden (ref line K) is shown.

A glasshouse is shown at reference point L is shown.

25 inch 2nd and later editions, Scotland, 1914 pub 1919

The layout is substantially unchanged. An additional building (now ruined) is shown at reference point M.

Tree symbols have appeared around the western perimeter of the site.

Tree symbols have appeared in an enclosed area at the southern tip of reference area A.

Within reference area G embankments are indicated suggesting the origination of terracing here.

The area to the south of the house (reference point N) is shown as clear. The area immediately north of the house (reference point P) is shown as clear. Tree symbols are shown around reference point H.

Tree cover within the main woodland area is shown as sparse and almost wholly broadleaf.

25 inch 2nd and later editions, Scotland, revised 1936 published 1938

A tree lined avenue is shown from the main road to the grounds of the house.

Tree symbols reappear in the main part of the triangular area reference A.

An additional and larger glasshouse is shown at reference point Q.

An additional smaller building is shown just north of the ruin at reference point J.

No coniferous symbols are shown within the main woodland area.

National Grid Maps, 1940s-1970, revised 1961 published 1962

The entrance avenue trees are no longer shown.

The terrace at reference area G is no longer shown but is clear.

The greater detail in tree symbols indicates occasional conifers and about equal coverage of trees and shrubs (or small trees).

The west perimeter path is no longer shown.

The area behind the hotel (reference P) is shown as a mix of tree and shrubs.

Other maps

1968 edition - no detectable changes.

The Roy highland map was consulted (c 1760) but is not detailed enough to give any extra meaningful information.

Wartime maps were also consulted but these had been edited by the War Office for national security reasons and are not reliable.

Post 1983 maps are subject to copyright and are not available at present.

Conclusions from examination of maps relative to AWI shape.

The AWI shape is approximate and wrongly placed, and thus suggests historic tree cover within the field area and to the south of the site, where historic mapping counter-indicates no tree cover.

Progressive development of Woodbank House and its ornamental and horticultural facilities shows significant clearance, manmade changes in landform and path developments that together replaced about 55% of the previous land use on the site and within the corrected position of the AWI shape.

The mapping suggests changes in tree mix, reduction in cover and periods of shrub or small tree cover in large parts of the remainder.

Conclusions in conjunction with tree survey information

The tree survey indicated a narrow semi-mature to early age range for most trees. Older trees were generally beech, lime and ornamental conifers. None of these are native species.

Tree cover is dominated by non-native species (sycamore, beech, lime, ornamental conifers) and mature Cherry Laurel, Portuguese Laurel and other non-native shrubs. Native oak and birch are present to maturity or semi-maturity. To the south of the site are many young to semi mature birch and to early mature willow, which appear from positions and density to be self-seeded.

The overall impression is of a loss of natural woodland in favour of a manufactured largely ornamental landscape, now dominated by replanted non-native and native trees, surviving ornamental conifers, naturally regenerating willow and birch on disturbed ground and everywhere interspersed by invasive bamboo and other non-native shrubs and by dense evergreen Prunus understorey. The area to the south of Woodbank House, and running to the south point of the AWI shape (reference points N, G and A), may have been largely devoid of woodland cover for over a century. The walled garden area (E) and the glasshouse area (Q) has been excavated from the hillside and no original habitat can exist.

The stables area (N) has been built over and otherwise all trees may have been removed over a century ago. Only weak recent regeneration is present.

An almost continuous wall was noted running from the field corner in the NNW to behind the stables area in the SSE. It amounts to a drop of between 1m and 2m from W to E and is clearly artificial. It is likely that excavation and fill for this have obliterated any original habitat. A bridge and a level track are still discernable to the west of this edge and the track has been overrun by natural regeneration only in its north half.

JM 07/01/23