

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

GUIDE TO THE MANAGEMENT OF LANDSCAPE AREAS

SHAMBELLIE HOUSE, NEW ABBEY, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY.

ON BEHALF OF Shambellie House Trust

September 2023



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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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NOTICE

This report was produced by B&P Design Landscape Architects for the Shambellie House Trust for the specific purpose of the land around the house.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF DOCUMENT

1.1.1 The Management Plan shall be taken to include this document and any supporting plans, reports and specifications approved for the land at Shambellie House. This includes any documentation containing quantitative and qualitative information about the external areas of the site that will be useful to those responsible for managing and maintaining them.

1.1.2 The purpose of this document is to schedule all required maintenance regimes, operations and works necessary for the satisfactory management of the landscape gardens. The Management Plan sets out the management aims and objectives for the site along with the specific management objectives for each landscape component, and the associated maintenance works required on an Annual and Occasional basis. The Annual Works are those works that will be required every year, such as watering, weeding and cleaning. The Occasional Works are those that will be required on an irregular or cyclical basis, such as repairs and renewals.

1.2 THE GROUNDS

Location

The grounds are situated at Shambellie House, New Abbey, Dumfries. DG2 8HQ 01387 440082
info@shambelliehouse.org

1.2.2 **Site Description and Development Proposals**

Shambellie House was built in 1856 for William Stewart and remained in the Stewart family until 1977 when Charles Stewart gave it to the Scottish nation. The twist and turns of its history are fascinating, from the disputes between the family and the architect, the eccentric owners over the centuries and its colourful visitors.

Located in the historic village of New Abbey which includes the evocative 13th century Sweetheart Abbey and 18th century Corn Mill, and set within the context of Dumfries and Galloway, there is a mine of history and heritage to discover.

The gardens and grounds at Shambellie House are an inspiration for those looking to learn rural or horticultural skills. Surrounded by ancient woodland, highlights include the many species of trees, along with rare cultivars of rhododendrons. The site is a great place to learn more about the environment and sustainability, nature conservation, garden design and a variety of traditional outdoor crafts.

1.2.6 **Management Plan**

This document identifies the long term objectives for Shambellie House and Grounds and identifies management requirements to achieve the original design goals in a pragmatic manner, as a mechanism to deliver the quality standards and wider strategic objectives.

However, it is recognised that landscape is a living and changing thing, therefore this Management Plan should be regarded as a *'living document'* which will be updated during the life of the Shambellie House Trust and reviewed and readdress management tasks, guided by the 'long term objectives' for the Shambellie and its component parts.

1.2.7 All of the landscaped areas will be the subject of the Management Plan.

1.3 RECITALS

1.3.1 Parties Involved

The **Trust**: Shambellie House Trust is responsible for the development of the house and grounds and has split the work into a series of phases so that it could secure the future of the House. The Trust will be carrying out further work to the House, increasing parking, managing the landscape and bringing all the rooms into use.

In the longer term it is the ambition to restore and improve the grounds, to build an extension to provide additional facilities, improve access and provide an accommodation wing to enable delivery of short residential courses.

The **Members**: Members are able to attend the Shambellie House Trust's AGM and elect Trustees to the Board. All Members have one vote regardless of how many shares you hold and there are limits on how much you can invest. In addition, they are also able to take part in a wider consultation group to demonstrate community support to potential funders.

The **Council**: This term (abbreviated to LPA) shall refer to Dumfries and Galloway Council and its Planning and Landscape Officers that may be involved from time to time in the process of the approval of landscape and surrounds.

The **Partners**: Cloverglenn have been providing support to people with disabilities in Dumfries and Galloway since 2003. Cloverglenn work with people who have learning difficulties, mental health issues or are autistic.

Cloverglenn are based in the Lodge of Shambellie House and from there they give the service users an opportunity to learn a variety of life skills as well as an opportunity to develop interests and hobbies. The service users love Shambellie House and are proud to support the management and maintenance of the grounds, keeping the house clean and walking the local footpaths which they keep clear for other walkers.

The **Landscape Contractor**: the company who are to be appointed by the Trust to carry out the landscape maintenance works.

1.3.2 Status of the Landscape Management Plan

This is a detailed long-term Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan for all landscape areas around Shambellie House and shall be produced and approved by the Shambellie House Trust. The plan shall include:

- Aims and Objectives;
- A description of Landscape Components;
- Management Prescriptions;
- Details of maintenance operations and their timing; and
- Details of the parties/organisations who will maintain and manage the site.

The plan shall demonstrate full integration of landscape, biodiversity and arboricultural considerations. The areas of planting shall thereafter be retained and maintained in perpetuity in accordance with the approved Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan, unless any variation is approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

- 1.3.3 The Shambellie Trust is to implement this document to form part of the approved documents for the site and the management shall be carried out in accordance with this

document. This document outlines the minimum standard of maintenance to ensure a safe, comfortable, attractive, biodiverse and sustainable landscape is achieved in perpetuity.

1.3.4 Supportive Information

This Management Plan is to be read in conjunction with drawing 357/001PC. R1 or later.

2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 AIMS

2.1.1 The principal aims of this Landscape Management Plan are to secure a coordinated and high standard of landscape management, and to ensure the grounds-integrate into-the surrounding woodland area and to protect and enhance the trees and shrubs, all in accordance the approved landscape masterplan.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRUST

2.2.1 The main objectives of the Landscape Management Plan are as follows:

- Providing facilities for the arts and providing heritage benefit to the community by preserving the listed building of Shambellie House (including any outbuildings or associated buildings and grounds).
- To arrange for the buildings and grounds to be used for the advancement of education, in particular arts, culture and the environment.
- To maintain landscape character: To protect and conserve the existing landscape character and screening function of the existing trees, to provide an attractive and robust landscape setting for the new buildings and reinforce local distinctiveness;
- The sustainable management of existing vegetation: To retain existing trees and other vegetation that are worthy of retention, and to enhance their character, composition and age structure through positive management with consideration to long-term viability and health and safety;
- To achieve a high standard of maintenance: To take measures to ensure the successful establishment and growth of new structural and incidental planting and to take appropriate long-term management measures to ensure the satisfactory appearance and sustainability of vegetation. To ensure that landscape components are replaced, augmented and/or improved over time as appropriate;
- To maintain and enhance biodiversity: To protect and enhance the nature conservation interest of both existing and new habitats and to ensure the adoption of management practices that enhance the biodiversity value of the site;
- To ensure health and safety: To uphold the duty of care that all landscape components are safe and that all reasonable steps are taken to minimise risk of injury and damage to people and property; and
- To provide a mechanism for monitoring and review: To ensure that management practices are monitored and where necessary reviewed on an annual basis in accordance with changing site circumstances and the views of key stakeholders (Trust, Partners and Landowners).

3.0 SPECIFIC ELEMENTS REQUIRING MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

3.1 LANDSCAPE AREAS AND LANDSCAPE COMPONENTS

3.1.1 The landscape areas subject to this Landscape Management Plan include the following components:

- a) Existing trees,
- b) Proposed Tree,
- c) Evasive Shrubs – Rhododendron ponticum
- d) Low maintenance wildflower grass areas, (including bulbs)
- e) Amenity grass and lawns.
- f) Bracken control
- g) Shrubs – ornamental
- h) Shrubs - rhododendrons

3.1.2 The information includes a description and specific management objectives for each component along with the annual and occasional management regimes required.

3.1.3 Specific elements have been omitted such as :

- a) Teaching Areas,
- b) Lower Public Car Park and Accessway,
- c) The Trails and Footpaths,

3.2 EXISTING MATURE TREES

3.2.1 Description

The woodland around Shambellie House is classified ancient woodland with lots of mature trees including Beech, Oak Western Hemlock and Larch. Natural regeneration is very successful in most of the woodlands, sometimes creating quite a dense canopy.

There are no TPO's (Tree Preservation Orders) on any trees and the grounds are outside of the Conservation area of New Abbey.

There are many mature specimen trees and Rhododendrons surrounding Shambellie House but with little woodland management over the years , many trees are in need of attention.

3.2.2 Management Objectives

- To ensure continuity in tree cover and their contribution to the landscape structure, biodiversity, and screening, amenity value of the site,
- Ensure that the trees are healthy and safe, particularly in places in close proximity to the main house and in the public areas.
- To have an appreciation of the social, amenity and environmental value of these trees in their specific context,
- An awareness of the hazards, risks and legal obligation associated with trees,
- Appropriate recording, monitoring and feedback.

3.2.3 Annual Works

i) Visual Inspection: Trees should be regularly visually checked for the presence of any diseased and decay that may affect the stability or health of the tree. If any such issues are identified then the advice of a qualified arboriculturist should be sought immediately.

ii) Annual Arboricultural Assessment: In any event, an Arboricultural Assessment should be undertaken every twelve to eighteen months by a qualified arboriculturist inspecting the condition of existing trees including any cause of increased risk to people or property. Furthermore, during the Arboricultural Assessment, the trees shall be monitored and any works required for health and safety or to promote the health and sustainability of existing trees shall be identified, scheduled and actioned at a suitable time of year following application and granting of appropriate consents by the LPA (if required).

The last Tree Survey was carried out on the 6th May 2021.

Recording and monitoring

1. Every tree that requires work or continued monitoring will be given a tag with a unique reference number on it
2. Species, height class, age class, vigour, life expectancy, zone of risk and date assessed will be recorded.
3. Tree location will be recorded
4. Frequency of monitoring will be suggested
5. Actions will be recommended where appropriate

iii) Apply a **Mycorrhizae fungi** fertiliser to the rootzone areas to encourage a strong root system. Applied annually for the first five years after the development.

3.2.4 Occasional Works

- i) Trim back branches growing within 1.8m of the building fabric and check annually and keep them at this distance. All work shall be identified, scheduled and actioned at a suitable time of year following application and granting of appropriate consents by the LPA (if required).
- ii) Check gutters, drains and downpipes around the house at the end of the year and clear out leaf and debris accumulated over the year. Ensure mesh grilles and guards are in place.

3.3 NEW TREES

3.3.1 Description

To ensure there is a balance of trees over the site from young to mature, so that if trees need to be removed there are replacements ready to come through.

3.3.2 Management Objectives

Objective: to promote early establishment and vigour in all newly planted trees within the grounds. This includes planting of Lime, whitebeam, wild cherry, oak, field maple, hornbeam and amelanchier within the site, which will require routine maintenance to ensure uniformity of structure and a well-defined canopy. Longer term management to include replacement as required and formative pruning to create a healthy, strategic landscape component and to perpetuate the original design aims.

3.3.3 Annual Works

- i) **General tree maintenance during establishment:**

Check all trees for firmness and stability in the ground. Check and adjust tree ties and replace if necessary. Top up bark mulch levels around the base of new trees, using the same or similar product to that previously supplied, to maintain an approximate depth of 60mm.

Where trees are in grass areas, remove weed growth by hand and retain a circle of bark mulch (approximate radius of 500mm) to aid mowing and prevent damage to the main stem. All trees shall be fertilised using a suitable and approved liquid feed (N10:P15:K10) at a rate of 60g/m². Prune back any diseased branches back to sound wood. Remove all arisings from site.

ii) **Watering trees:** Water trees during dry periods (being any period without substantial rainfall for 14 days or more), until trees are successfully established. Water at a rate of 25 litres per tree position into watering tubes at the base of the tree. Apply water at a frequency of once per fortnight. Increase watering frequency during any continuous hot weather lasting more than 7 days. The Landscape Contractor shall be entirely responsible for varying the frequency of these visits according to climatic conditions and for contacting the Residents Organisation and agreeing the timing of any additional watering visits if required. The Landscape Contractor shall be responsible for any tree failures or excessive die back from drought stress during the management contract.

3.3.4 Occasional Works

i) **Checking and removal of tree stakes and ties:** Review the need for tree stakes and ties annually up to the first 5 years. Remove stakes and ties when not required but be sure trees are firm and stable before removal. Stakes and ties removed shall be cut at ground level, below lowest grass height (to prevent snagging mower blades) or pulled from the ground and the post holes filled with suitable topsoil. Remove old posts and ties and arisings and dispose of site.

ii) **Long-term tree surgery works:** After 10-20 years of maintenance (or earlier if required), newly planted trees may need corrective surgery. Trees should become subject to the annual Arboricultural Assessment.

iii) **Tree replacement and enhancement of tree cover:** Any tree that dies or is unintentionally felled, shall be replaced with a tree of appropriate species and stock size. Such replacement shall be with a tree of either the same or similar species and size as those existing. The option for replacing with a different species could be considered to avoid problems encountered with '*Same Species Disease*' and to ensure sustainable tree cover in the interests of visual amenity.

Once annually the site shall be considered for any strategic replacement or enhancement planting, to broaden the age class of trees and tree groups, in the interests of the long-term sustainability of strategically important vegetation. Trees should be a minimum stock size of standards (10-12cm girth), and implemented and maintained in accordance with good horticultural practice. Replacement and enhancement planting are best undertaken during the planting season (November through to March inclusive).

3.4 EXISTING EVASIVE SHRUBS - RHODODENDRON PONTICUM

3.4.1 Description

Many of the existing plants have not been managed in the last couple of decades. This has allowed the spread of evasive plant species such as the *Rhododendron ponticum*.

Rhododendron ponticum is especially hardy and able to grow in many weather and soil conditions. It shades out other native vegetation and can cause reduced biodiversity. Specifically with *Rhododendron ponticum*, there is evidence of long-term debilitating effects to the soils in which it is found. The toxins found in the plant seep into the soils surrounding it which increases the acidity, causing reduced growth of other native species. Also, the resulting leaf litter becomes slow-decaying which in turn causes the soils to become infertile and low in nutrients. Over time, this can cause the natural balance of an eco-system to shift and become less encompassing for other biodiverse species.

3.4.2 Management Objectives

The management objectives for removing the *Rhododendrons* is to:

1. Confirm *Rhododendron* identification.
2. Carry out a survey and produce a distribution map indicating the location across the site.
3. Consider surrounding properties and potential for reintroduction. Talk to adjacent land owners. Identify potential contamination routes to your site and mitigate against these.
4. Decide should the programme aim for continuous control on a yearly basis or eradication from the site. Base your decision on an understanding of the biology, size of infestation, potential for reintroduction and other relevant sensitivities in the area. Once management has begun, do not allow any plant to flower and set seed within areas that have undergone initial clearance.
5. Consider if you can successfully and safely carry out the work or if professional practitioners, with relevant training and certificates should undertake the work.
6. Identify if sufficient resources are/will be available to complete the work within the planned timescale. If work will take more than 1 year to complete, ensure you have sufficient funds to complete the work.
7. Ensure disposal options for plant material are in place prior to work commencing.
8. Develop and produce a site specific control/management plan. Use the template provided in this document to guide you.
9. Monitor for regrowth and/or reintroduction during site visits. If applicable, ensure new members of staff are aware of your *Rhododendron* plan and report sightings

3.4.3 Annual Works

Rhododendron ponticum can be effectively tackled using a number of methods dependant on the size of the infestation and requirements of removal.

- Hand pulling
- Mulching
- Herbicide application
- Stump treatment
- Excavation

Dependant on the size of infestation, multiple techniques can be undertaken to control or eradicate *Rhododendron ponticum* from your property.

Cut and remove stems by hand or chainsaw, cutting as close to the ground as possible to remove above ground growth. Chip or remove the cut material from the area to allow for effective follow-up work and prevent regrowth. Chipped material can provide good weed barrier around ornamental garden areas. Flailing has also been effectively used in Ireland to treat young or immature growth. Although not suitable on all sites and locations, especially steeply sloping or wet sites, it is very effective as it breaks up woody stems upon contact.

The removal of above ground growth will not prevent regrowth as *Rhododendron* will regrow from cut stems and stumps. There are four recommended methods to achieve successful management after the initial cut and removal:

1. Digging the stumps out. The effectiveness of this technique is increased by removing all viable roots. This can be done manually or with a tractor and plough. To avoid regrowth, stumps should be turned upside down and soil should be brushed off roots.

2. Direct stump treatment by painting or spot spraying freshly cut low stumps with a herbicide immediately after been cut. Glyphosate (20% solution), triclopyr (8% solution) or ammonium sulphate (40% solution) are known to be effective during suitable weather conditions i.e. dry weather. The herbicide concentrations used and timings of applications vary according to which chemical is used. Use of a vegetable dye is recommended to mark treated stumps and all stumps should be targeted. A handheld applicator will help avoid spray drift onto surrounding non-target species. Always read the label and follow the manufacturers guidelines when using herbicides. Remember that using

3. A variation on the stump treatment method is stem injection, using a 'drill and drop' methodology, whereby, if the main stem is cut and is large enough for a hole to be drilled into it, the hole can be used to facilitate the targeted application of glyphosate (25% solution). The main drawback is that the dead *Rhododendron* may persist in situ for 10-15 years.
4. Stump regrowth and seedlings can be effectively killed by spraying regrowth with a suitable herbicide, usually glyphosate. Best practice spraying protocols should be carefully followed. General broadcast spraying is not as effective as stump spot treatment and has the potential to impact on surrounding non-target species. *Rhododendron* leaves are thick and waxy. For herbicide treatment to be effective each individual leaf needs to be thoroughly wetted with herbicide to kill the plant.

3.5 GRASSLAND - LOW MAINTENANCE WILDFLOWER AREAS

3.5.1 Description

1. to create new and diverse areas of semi-natural wild flower and rough grassland of potential value to invertebrates.
2. No chemical or nutritional applications to be made to these areas, unless agreed with the Landscape Manager.

3.5.2 Management Objectives

The management objectives for grassland:

- Ensure the satisfactory establishment and growth of the grassland;

- Maintain planting in a healthy and attractive condition of value to wildlife;
- Ensure continuity of the design approach.

3.5.3 Annual Works

1. Grass cutting: all newly seeded areas, in the first year after seeding, should be cut every 2 months during the growing season, with the last cut in late September (after flowering of wild flowers). The grassland shall be topped to a height of 50-75mm and all arising's removed. Suitable harvesting equipment shall be used. In some areas strimming may be required.

2. Thereafter, the areas of semi-natural grassland shall be subject to a low level of management. This will encourage the development of a diverse grassland flora. A general policy of a twice annual cut, to a minimum height of 150mm, is to be undertaken in May or June and September or October, at the end of the growing season, when seed has set. All arisings removed for recycling.

3. If the sward becomes colonized by nettle, bracken, thistle, dock or other pernicious perennial weed species, these to be hand pulled or dug out or alternatively subject to localized repeated strimming or spot treatment with Glyphosate. If necessary any areas that fail to thrive are to be recultivated and re-seeded with the original seed. subject to weather conditions from April to October.

3.5.4 Occasional Works

Wildflower Areas: Alternative Management of Wildflower Grassland

1. Specific habitat manipulation measures would be implemented to optimise their value for invertebrate, ornithological, herpetological and botanical interest.

2. Grass cutting: the areas of wild flower grassland shall be subject to differing levels of management. This will encourage the development of a diverse, rough tussock grassland flora of particular value to invertebrates and herptiles. A general policy to be adopted, cut the wild flower grassland once / year to a minimum height of 150mm and remove arising's.

3. Bulbs: No cutting of grass until the bulbs have started to die back in May/June.

4. If any parts of the sward continue to become colonized by nettle, bracken, thistle, dock or other pernicious perennial weed species, these are to be more regularly hand pulled, dug out, or strimmed. Spot treatment with Glyphosate could also be considered on stubborn weeds.

3.6 SHORT MOWN GRASS

3.6.1 Description

Areas of short mown grass including new and existing grass to be maintained as a high quality close cut sward, for informal recreational use and to provide an attractive landscape setting to the grounds.

3.6.2 Management Objectives

The management objectives for short mown grassland:

- To be maintained as a high quality close cut sward for informal recreational use,
- To provide for an attractive landscape setting to the grounds and house

3.6.3 Annual Works

NEW GRASS

1. Areas of newly seeded grass to be subject to establishment maintenance during the first year after seeding, to ensure the establishment of a dense, healthy grass sward, stone free and dominated by the specified grasses.
2. Seeded swards to be cut six times during the initial growing season, once the grass has established sufficiently to be stable and well rooted. The first cut to be made when the grass has reached 50mm in height and the grass shall not be cut lower than 25mm. All arising's to be removed from site or composted. Similarly any areas of newly turfed grass to be cut once the grass has reached 50mm in height and cut to 25mm. Turfed grass to be cut at least 12 times during the initial growing season. All cutting operations to be carried out in suitable dry weather conditions. All arising's to be removed from site or composted.
3. All necessary precautions must be taken to protect newly seeded areas, to ensure satisfactory establishment.
4. Any failed areas of grass to be re-seeded at the correct season, using the original specified seed mix. Any ingress of pernicious perennial weeds to be hand pulled. No selective herbicide to be used until the grass sward is fully established.

EXISTING GRASS

1. Areas of existing lawns and amenity grass are to be subject to a relatively intensive programme of turf restoration during the initial 12 month period. This will include regular cutting, spiking, aeration and scarification to remove moss and thatch. All arising's are to be removed.
2. Any short grass that abuts a vertical obstacle to be strimmed at the same time as each grass cut to achieve a neat edge. All arising's to be collected up and composted or removed from site.
3. If invasive species continue to emerge, it will be necessary to hand pull these and increase mowing.
4. The grass edges around trees and shrub beds, to be cut a minimum of six times during each growing season to a 50mm oblique face with no grass overhang. All grass edges against paved areas, kerbs or other hard surfaces to be edged or strimmed regularly to maintain a 10-20mm clear gap between the two surfaces.
5. The lawn are to be treated with an approved selective herbicide and mosscontrol, at the recommended rate of application on an annual or biannual basis in April/May and again in September/October of each year, to control broad-leaved weeds and moss encroachment.
6. Fertiliser Application - Apply a spring and autumn fertiliser to the sward, to be applied at the manufacturer's recommended rates, to encourage vigour and build a good root

3.6.4 Occasional Works

- 1.

2. Improve Drainage using hollow or solid tines in September / October.
 7. In March and September of each year, all grass edges to be trimmed in accordance with 2 above, to be cut to a straight line or smooth curve as appropriate using a half moon edging tool or similar. (formal areas around the house).
3. Any damage caused by pests (rabbits etc) or by vehicles or general wear and tear, to be reinstated by top dressing, re-cultivation, re-seeding and watering, at the correct season.

3.7 BRACKEN CONTROL IN BORDERS AND GRASS

3.7.1 Description

Bracken is a native plant with conservation benefits and is a natural component of many woodlands and open-ground habitats. Stands of bracken can provide a valuable habitat for wildlife, especially where the bracken canopy is relatively open.

However, bracken is a successful coloniser and has now spread into grassland and in and around the Rhododendrons and planted areas. If left to colonise quite large areas will be smothered resulting in the wildflower grassland and more sensitive habitats disappearing.

3.7.2 Management Objectives

The management objectives for controlling bracken will be to:

- To control the spread of bracken throughout the gardens;
- To maintain healthy and suitable grass areas, appropriate to function and use.
- To return grassland of general and conservation value back to the grounds,
- To restore a more open structure to the existing vegetation to encourage characteristic native plants to thrive,
- Provide breeding and feeding grounds for associated wildlife.

3.7.3 Annual Works - How best to control bracken

Identify any sensitive areas and non-target species that might be adversely affected by bracken management.

Bracken is a native plant, and you will not always want to control it; sometimes you will want to maintain a patchy cover to benefit species associated with bracken. If you decide to take no action, monitor the spread of bracken.

Your control programme should consist of an initial treatment and repeated follow-up treatments.

3.7.4 This applies to manual and mechanised bracken treatment.

Control measures to include manual (hand cutting, hand pulling) or mechanical (cutting/rolling/crushing). The use of livestock is not really an option at Shambelli House but could be an option in other situations.

3.7.5 Cutting

Cut bracken at least twice in the first year (in May / June and again in July / August) as the fronds start to unfurl. More frequent cuts than this are beneficial in the early years, to prevent the plant photosynthesising. This results in the plant taking energy from the root system, weakening it over time.

3.7.6 Rolling

Rolling crushes young bracken fronds that emerge in the spring and weakens the plant by bruising the stems and causing them to bleed. Rolling should be carried out again later on in summer, and should be repeated over a number of years to be effective.

Where stands are particularly dense and vigorous, you may need to cut / flail / roll three times per year. Where ground-nesting birds are present, mechanical control should be avoided during May–July.

3.7.7 Grazing

After primary treatment, livestock can be used to help break up the bracken litter and expose the underground rhizomes to frost damage through poaching. Livestock grazing can be used as part of a non-chemical control strategy, complementing cutting or rolling over spring / summer. *(not really an option at Shambellie House)*

There is a risk of bracken poisoning and proliferation of ticks in bracken stands can adversely affect animal welfare so you need to check animals regularly. You will also need to be careful that livestock grazing does not lead to soil erosion.

3.7.8 Hand pulling

Hand pulling as a bracken control strategy is labour intensive. Nevertheless, hand pulling can be an effective control strategy for smaller patches of bracken and should not be completely discounted.

3.7.9 Occasional Works

A programme of control should cover a five-year period and several different control measures might be required. Consider the slope and accessibility of the site when choosing a control treatment.

3.8 SHRUBS – ORNAMENTAL AROUND THE HOUSE

3.8.1 Description

3.8.2 Management Objectives

- To refresh the Ornamental shrubs, groundcover, herbaceous and climbing plants around the new house. To give character and to contribute to the setting of the grounds, to provide visual interest, amenity value and to enhance the built form.
- Species to include similar range of ornamental, specimen and climbing plants with a mix of evergreen and deciduous species.
- Although generally ornamental in character, species to be selected to provide biodiversity for wildlife including flowering and fruiting varieties.

3.8.3 Annual Works

i) **Weeding & Matting:** Remove all weed growth by hand to ensure weed free and tidy planting areas. Visits should occur approximately monthly in the growing season, subject to weather conditions from April to October. Weedblock matting and bark mulch, if present, should not be disturbed. Keep bark mulch topped up using the same or similar product to that previously supplied.

Note: For planting using a nonbiodegradable weed suppressant membrane, reduce visits to 4 times per year in the growing season. Where a biodegradable weed suppressant fabric has been used, the frequency should be varied according to the site and density of vegetation cover. All weeds shall be removed from the site.

ii) **Spot Herbicide:** Where required, persistent perennial weeds can be controlled using herbicide. For planting beds containing herbaceous plants and shrubs, apply a suitable folia-acting systemic translocated herbicide using a weed wiper device to avoid spray drift.

Apply herbicide as required and at intervals to ensure no regrowth of weed, usually equating to four sprays per year during the growing season at 6-week intervals, from late April onwards. The timing of visits may vary according to weather conditions. Extreme care must be taken to avoid damage to surrounding plants and grass, and to avoid spray drift. Any damage resulting from incorrect usage, spillage, and spray drift, to be rectified at the Landscape Contractor's expense.

iii) **General planting maintenance:** At each visit, firm in any loose plants. Top up bark mulch levels using the same or similar product to that previously supplied to maintain an approximate depth of 60mm. All shrubs shall be fertilised using an approved granular or liquid feed (N10:P15:K10) at a rate of 60g/m².

iv) **Pruning of ornamental planting:** Prune back shrubs in the period between October to March in accordance with sound horticultural practices, pruning back to a node, shoot or bud; prune out dead, leggy and broken branches, without damage to the natural habit or appearance of plant without box clipping or rounding off plants. Prune out crossover branches, invasive suckers, dead wood, damaged stems, any spindly growths and any epicormic growth that will weaken the plant. Prune back Rosacea and quick and leggy growing plants much harder than other species. Prune Cornus varieties back to 200mm above ground every 3rd year. Cut back Lavender after flowering. In terms of herbaceous plants cut back in spring by removing dead stems before new growth starts to appear.

v) **Watering:** Water shrubs and specimen plants during dry periods (being any period without substantial rainfall for 14 days or more). Water plants to field capacity (minimum 10 litres per m²) and apply 10 litres water to all specimen plants. Apply water at a frequency of up to 2 times per week from April to the end of September, during any hot weather lasting more than 7 days. The Landscape Contractor shall be entirely responsible for varying the frequency of these visits according to climatic conditions and for contacting the Residents Organisation and agreeing the timing of any additional watering visits. The Landscape Contractor shall be responsible for any tree failures or excessive die back from drought stress during the management contract.

3.8.4 Occasional Works

i) **Replacement and enhancement planting:** Cut back any shrubs and herbaceous plants where they have become old, misshapen, leggy or just lost their vigour and replace with stock

of the size, species and quality originally specified. Include all work necessary to enable planting to be properly carried out in accordance with good horticultural practice. Include removal and disposal of dead material off site and for topping up/replacement of bark mulch. Once annually consider replacement or enhancement planting, to broaden the age class of vegetation in the interests of the long-term sustainability of strategically important vegetation.

3.9 SHRUBS – RHODODENDRONS AND CAMELIAS

3.9.1 Description

Rhododendrons don't require annual pruning in the way that a rose does, for instance. It is just a tool that can be used from time to time to improve the size or shape of your plants.

“Kenneth Cox from his book Rhododendrons and Azaleas a Colour Guide.”

3.9.2 Management Objectives

There are several reasons why you may want to prune a bush.

- It may have been crowded out by other plants and become straggly.
- It may have been severely damaged by cold or wind, or had its first flush of growth frosted, causing unsightly, brown, distorted leaves.
- It may have got too big or because you want to move it.
- But perhaps the most common pruning tasks are when you want to rejuvenate an old collection which has become completely overgrown.

3.9.3 Occasional Works (Pruning & Rejuvenating Old Rhododendrons)

- Many of the alpine and dwarf varieties such as yak hybrids need little or no pruning to maintain a good shape, as long as they are grown in plenty of light.
- As soon as rhododendrons start to flower freely, most growth comes from lateral shoots from below the flower buds and therefore nature does its own pinching.
- When plants are young and before they start to flower freely however, the simplest way to ensure a plant of good habit is to pinch out all the single, terminal buds as they elongate in the spring. Wait until this becomes easy to do: if you have to dig out the bud, then it is too early.
- This is good for vigorous dwarfs, subsection Triflora species and most larger hybrids.
- With species, many of the largest ones are, in essence, trees, and they should be left to form a single trunk until they attain a substantial height. Others such as the very vigorous *R. decorum* are better pinched as a small plant to encourage bushiness.
- Spring frosts do a lot of natural pinching, with the central bud being frosted, leaving the later growth to come from below as multiple shoots

Pinching is a preventative measure while **pruning** is a cure.

Pinching means removing the terminal or central growth bud of a rhododendron as it elongates to encourage multiple branching from lateral buds which form in the leaf axils of each whorl (circle at the branch end) of leaves.

Pruning involves cutting a mature shoot or branch so that buds break and grow further down, hopefully improving the shape.

Scaly-leaved rhododendrons and all azaleas can be pruned to any point on a branch or shoot and new growth will come from buds lower down.

With larger-leaved, non-scaly varieties, you should cut back to a whorl of leaves.

3.9.3 Time of Pruning

Although it is possible to prune at any time of year, perhaps the most satisfactory time is straight after flowering. This gives time for production of new growth and for formation of flower buds the following year. Alternatively prune in early spring, just as new growth is starting to elongate. When pruning, it is best to leave a substantial quantity of leaves: cutting back into too much old wood is risky.

Among larger species and hybrids, there is considerable variation in how well they respond to pruning. If you can cut back to a healthy whorl of leaves, one or some of the buds above each leaf stalk will almost certainly grow. It is when a more severe pruning is required, cutting back to a bare trunk, that results vary considerably.

3.9.4 Rhododendrons which you should not prune

As a rough rule, varieties with a smooth bark such as *R. thomsonii*, *R. barbatum* as well as most of the large-leaved species such as *R. sinogrande* are reluctant to respond to being cut back to the trunk. One exception is the large-leaved *R. macabeum* which produces plenty of shoots from the base if cut back deliberately or by severe weather.

If in doubt all well cut back one or two main stems to determine if the plant is going to sprout from lower down

3.9.5 *R. ponticum* and *ponticum* rootstocks.

Amongst the best responders to being severely cut back are *R. arboretum* and the ubiquitous *R. ponticum*. The latter's ability to regenerate is one of the reasons it is so hard to eradicate in areas where it has become a pest. This species was traditionally used as a rootstock for grafting cultivars and its extreme propensity to throw suckers has commonly overwhelmed whatever was grafted on top of it in old collections, incorrectly referred to as 'reverting'.

Many *R. ponticum*-lined drives of stately homes in the U.K. were formerly plantings of hardy hybrids of various colours. This is important to bear in mind when trying to rejuvenate plantings which date back to the 1950's or earlier in the U.K. The characteristic purple flowers and dark green, shiny, narrow leaves of *R. ponticum* should make it possible to identify which the suckers are. These should be wrenched off at the base of the stem. If you prune them off, they will just produce a whole cluster of shoots from the below the cut.

Since the 1950's grafting has fallen from favour as cuttings and more recently micropropagation have become the major production techniques for rhododendrons, (except in northern Europe where most cultivars are grafted on 'Cunningham's White'-fortunately far less prone to suckering).

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

4.1 IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1.1 The TRUST will undertake all management aspects either as a group or as a sub-group.
- 4.1.2 The trust will coordinate all management aspects of the site in perpetuity in accordance with this Landscape Management Plan and the accompanying maintenance schedules.
- 4.1.3 The trust may appoint a Landscape Contractor to carry out general maintenance operations. Specialist Contractors may be used on an, as need basis to complete specialist operations and/or occasional works.
- 4.1.4 The trust may also appoint from time to time consultants to provide specialist advice, or to undertake a watching brief in relation to particular aspects of this site or specific maintenance operations. This may include an arboriculturists to assess the health of the trees.
- 4.1.5 All works, materials and operations will be in accordance with relevant legislation, British Standards, Regulations and Codes of Practice.

4.2 Process for Monitoring and Review

- 4.2.1 The Landscape Management Plan and maintenance schedules will be monitored and assessed for their effectiveness on an annual basis for the first five years following the completion of the ground improvements .
- 4.2.2 Each annual review will be coordinated and completed by a representative of the Trust. The review will include advice from specialist consultants as required (such as a qualified arboriculturist), the Landscape Manager, the Partners and Contractor and other stakeholders.
- 4.2.3 To this end the review may include:
- Specialist reports - advising on particular aspects such as general arboricultural requirements, silvicultural husbandry and health and safety issues;
 - Notes of the meeting to be circulated to all interested parties.
- 4.2.4 The review should identify any changes to site conditions and circumstances, whether the aims and objectives of the Landscape Management Plan are being met, and where identified changes are needed to existing management practices and timeframes.
- 4.2.5 Within one calendar month of the review, a revised Landscape Management Plan shall be produced (if appropriate), and circulated to all parties. This shall be reviewed and updated every 5 years.
- 4.2.6 **After the first five years.** The Landscape Management Plan will be reviewed and updated as required to ensure the satisfactory management of the trees and landscaped areas in perpetuity.

5.0 SCHEDULE OF MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House , the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr- June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
GENERAL								
Collection and removal of litter and other debris	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	12	CG	All hard and soft areas. Cart away litter/debris and remove off site to licensed tip.
Gutters and downpipes	Once per month	Once per month	-	-	Once per month	8	MC	Ensure mesh guards are placed over the down pipes and across all gutters to prevent build-up of leaf litter. Check monthly.
Inspection & Sweeping	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	Once per fortnight during leaf drop	14	MC	Document any defects, recommend methodology and carry out remedial works as required.
SOFT WORKS								
EXISTING TREES (Cl. 3.2)								
Visual Inspection of mature trees	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	Once per month	12	MC	On each visit or as required. Report any problems.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House, the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr-June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
Annual Arboricultural Assessment of mature trees	-	-	-	-	1	1	MC	To be completed by a qualified arboriculturist annually. Assessment period to be varied so that each season can be inspected over the course of several years
Tree Surgery - significant works to Woodland	-	-	-	-	1	1	MC	As identified by arboricultural survey. To be carried out outside of the bird nesting season and following advice from an ecologist.
Remove major deadwood from trees over 25mm in girth	-	-	-	-	1	1	MC	As identified by arboricultural assessment following approvals from LPA. Clean all trees within the development of deadwood to avoid excessive drop during the year.
Keep branches away from buildings. Min distance 1.8m.	-	-	-	-	1	1	MC	As identified by arboricultural assessment following approvals from LPA. To prevent build up with leaf debris and to prevent damage to the fabric of the building
Mycorrhizal fungi feed to tree roots	1	-	-	-	-	1	MC	To encourage damaged feeding roots to quickly heal. Applied vertically into the soil.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House , the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr- June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
NEW TREES (Cl. 3.3)								
Check ties, water tube, mulch, stake	-	1	-	-	-	1	CG	Once / year in the spring
Tree Bases	1					1	CG	Firm in, remove weedgrowth and retain a circle of bark mulch Apply an application of fertiliser 60g/tree
Pruning	1					1	CG	Formative pruning to maintain shape and remove any deadwood.
Water Trees	-	3	4	4	-	11	CG	25litres / tree
R. PONTICUM CONTROL MEASURES (Cl. 3.4)								
Survey	-	-	-	-	1	1	CG/ MC	Consultation with adjoining Landowners, Inhouse or Contractor, Disposal Options, Consider if Cloverglen can do the work or use the maintenance contractor. Consider resources. Management Plan for control methods.
Removal Methods	-	1	1	1	-	3	CG/ MC	Hand pulling, Mulching, Herbicide, stump treatment.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House, the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr-June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
SHRUBS GENERAL (Cl. 3.8)								
General Maintenance of Planted Areas	-	Reapply bark mulch	-	-	-	1	CG	If applied, top up bark mulch to maintain 70mm depth around shrubs.
Cutting / Trimming of hedgerows	-	Once in June	Once in August	-	Once in November	3	MC	As required to create a formal appearance or just to tidy up an informal hedge. Check on bird nests prior to carrying out work
Hand Weeding	-	Once a Month	Once a Month	Once a Month	-	7	CG	Weed by hand taking care not to disturb sheet or bark mulch. Remove all arising.
Spot Herbicide	Once in late March	-	Once in June, Once in August	Once in October	-	4	MC	To apply every six weeks or as necessary.
Watering	-	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	-	12	CG	New Planting - Water once per fortnight from April to September until shrubs become established. Reduce watering in subsequent years to avoid dependency.
Pruning	-	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	-	14	MC	As required to sound horticultural practise between April and October. Keep off overhanging grass, pavements and across roadways.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House , the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr- June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
Fertiliser	-	Once in April	-	Once in September	-	2	MC	Areas around main house only - Fertiliser new shrubs, once in early May and once in late September. Use a slow release granular fertiliser
Check, adjust, replace or remove stakes / ties	1	-	-	-	-	1	MC	Check annually during late spring
Replacement hedges and shrubs	-	-	-	-	1	1	MC	As required. Inspections carried out during the late summer months. Optimum time for most species
GENERAL GRASS (Cl. 3.6)	-	-	-	-				
New Grass								Carry out establishment maintenance in the first year.
Cutting New Grass	-	1	2	2	1	6	MC	Seeded swards to be cut 6x/annum 50mm remove all arisings. Similar treatment to new turf areas. No chemical weedcontrol until the end of the 1 st year.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House , the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr- June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
Existing Grass								
Cutting amenity grass areas	Only if required from start of growing season	Once a week	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	As required to finish of growing season	22	MC	Mowing frequency to be adjusted according to climatic conditions and use. Reduce frequency and raise cutting height, in hot dry weather.
Edging & Strimming lawns	-	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	Once every fortnight	-	14	MC	Reprofile and edge shrub beds at start of growing season with half moon tool, then strim or cut margins with edging shears throughout growing season.
General Lawn Care	-	1	-	1	-	2	MC	Apply a fertiliser, selective weedkiller and moss retardant in May and September.
Grass Restoration	-	1	-	1	-	2	MC	Regular cutting, spiking, aeration and scarification to remove moss and thatch. Remove all arisings.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House , the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr- June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
LOW MAINTENANCE GRASS AREAS (Cl. 3.5)								
Cutting low maintenance grass areas	-	1	-	1	-	2	MC	Cuttings and all arisings to be raked off.Height 150mm.
Weed Infestation	-	1	1	1	-	3	CG	If the grass gets colonised by nettles, brambles, bracken, hand pull or dig out. Control by hand pulling, dig out or using spot weedcontrol using Glyphosate.
Bulbs in grass	-	1	-	-	-	1		Cut grass when the bulb has started to die down.

Maintenance Operation	Number of Visits (to be dependent on season – where not dependent on season, if appropriate, the timing shall be agreed between Shambellie House, the Partners and the Contractor. <i>Indicative timings are shown with a *</i>					Total No. of Visits / Yr.	Contractor (MC) or Cloverglen (CG)	Additional Comments
	Jan – Mar (13 Weeks)	Apr-June (13 Weeks)	July-Aug (9 Weeks)	Sept-Oct (9 Weeks)	Nov-Dec (8 Weeks)			
BRACKEN CONTROL MEASURES								
Identify Sensitive areas	-	1	1	-	-	2	CG	Control programme should consist of an initial treatment and repeated with a followup treatment.
Control Methods	-	1	1	-	-	2	CG	Cutting, Rolling and Crushing & hand pulling Twice a year during the first year as fonds start to unflurl. As early as possible to avoid ground nesting birds.
Frequency	-	2	1			3	CG	Dense cover cut three x / year in the first year and then reduce to twice / year, followed by hand pulling and cutting as above.

APPENDICES

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APPENDICES

A CONCEPT AND DESIGN IDEAS to be read in conjunction with Masterplan

1) ABOVE FRONT OF HOUSE

- a) Extend the heather bank,
- b) Possible location for Apiary,
- c) P2 grass walkway taking in the heather bank, wildflowers and bees,
- d) Wildflowers planting into the existing grass.

2) AROUND THE HOUSE including the Terrace Lawn

- a) Front of house layby parking for three cars cut into the existing shrub border,
- b) Retain the disabled parking to the front,
- c) BS – Bicycle shelter to side of house behind the disabled parking,
- d) AL1 – Allotment to be situated to the rear of the new car park area. Further future enlargement of the carpark may involve moving the allotment to the walled garden by agreement.
- e) SM – Site map situated on the corner of the bike stands,
- f) Main path (where all the trails lead off from) runs from the Site Map (SM) down the side of the building, the side of the terrace lawn and the side of the formal lawn.
- g) Car Park – To accommodate initially 10no vehicles. This could be enlarged to accommodate 20no cars in the future (refer to (d) above).
- h) Terrace Lawn – Retain two flights of steps either end of the lawn. Remove the middle Steps. Install a short stocky wall on the top of the bank (RW2) between the terrace lawn and formal lawn (parallel to the house) to provide containment, to act as a perching area for students and visitors and to give a better sense of space.
- i) Terrace Lawn - Planting around the house to be modified and freshened up, the picnic tables retained, a stretched canvas structure (TA1) to be placed close to the picnic tables, and used for outdoor meetings, picnics, events, fairs and open days.
- j) Paths/trails radiate from the canvas structure.

3) THE TEACHING AREAS

- a) TA1 - Canvas Gazebo using natural materials by canvas man canvasman.co.uk
- b) TA2 - Adapted metal frame fitted with a canvas or solid waterproof roof covering. The boulders on the bank to be rearranged and used as stools together with split log benches inside the covered structure.
- c) TA3 - Wildlife hide by peak playgrounds. fitted with benches and worktop for recording sightings.
- d) TA4 - Shelter using natural materials with spit log benches and picnic tables by flights so fantasy.
- e) TA5 - Boulders retrieved from site & positioned to form a circle for teaching purposes

4) THE LOWER PUBLIC CAR PARK & ACCESS WAY

APPENDICES

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- a) Install passing places up the main driveway using appropriate materials to safeguard the trees and shrubs,
- b) To construct a new driveway off the public car park with the alignment to cause the least damage to the existing trees and shrubs,
- c) To maintain the disabled access to the existing toilets.
- d) To operate a one-way system around the carpark,
- e) To install a footpath link (EA7) from the car park to the village, Sweetheart Abby and the Cornmill.

5) THE TRAILS

All walks start and finish from the site map beside the bike shelter & disabled parking bays and follow waymarks with either *acorn*, *toadstool*, *bird* or *squirrel* symbols on the timber signposts/waymarks.

- a) P1 - ACORN ROUTE - woodcarving trail wc 1-6 various animal woodcarvings on poles
- b) P2 - TOADSTOOL ROUTE - Heather & bee walkway - short walk alongside the extended heather bank, around the pet burials beneath the canopy of the yew tree to the apiary and return back around the back of the house.
- c) P3 - BIRD ROUTE - Leading to the wildlife hide
- d) P4 - SQUIRREL ROUTE - Nature trail, taking in the teaching areas, TA2, TA4 & TA5.

6) EXTERNAL ACCESS ROUTES

EA1 - WALKWAY INTO THE WOODLAND. THE ROUTE IS UNDEFINED BUT JOINS OTHER TRACKS.

EA2 - WALKWAY ABOVE THE HEATHER BANK INTO THE WOODLAND TO CONNECT WITH OTHER TRACKS & WORN ROUTES IN THE WOODLAND.

EA3 - WALKWAY FROM THE CAR PARK PAST THE OIL TANK TO CONNECT WITH OTHER WORN ROUTES AND TRACKS.

EA4 - PATH LEADING FROM THE SIDE OF THE CAR PARK INTO THE WIDER WOODLAND CONNECTING WITH OTHER TRACKS AND PATHS.

EA5 - PATH LEADING OFF INTO THE WIDER WOODLAND AROUND THE SIDE OF THE WALLED GARDEN.

EA6 - PATH LEADING TO THE WALLED GARDEN.

EA7 – PATH LEADING FROM THE CAR PARK TO THE VILLAGE, SWEETHART ABBEY AND THE CORNMILL

APPENDICES

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7) KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

AL - ALLOTMENT
B – BENCHES
BS - BIKE SHELTER
EA - EXTERNAL ACCESS
F - FENCES
G - GATE SINGLE OR DOUBLE
HB - APIARY
HB - HEATHER BORDER
HBX - HEATHER BORDER EXTENSION
LP - LAMP POST
RG - ROCK GARDEN
RS - ROAD SIGN
RW – RETAINING WALL
S - NEW TREE & SHRUBS
SG - STARGAZING BENCHES
SM - SITE MAP AND TRAIL GUIDE
ST - STEPS
TA - TEACHING AREA
TS - TREE SCULPTURE
PT - PICNIC TABLE
WC - WOOD CARVINGS
WF – WILDFLOWERS AND BULB PLANTING

B BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Copy.

Letter to Captain C. Stewart from his
Father's Forester, giving an account of the
planting of the Shambellie Wood.

New Abbey,

9th April 1805.

Sir,

My son received your letter dated the 27th ult. and, as desired, I now give a circumstantial detail of the wood plantations on Shambelly hill which I assisted in executing.

In the year 1752, your grandfather enclosed four acres, which were planted with oak, ash and common fir, and, in 1792, I began to cut the latter from amongst the hard wood, at which time the trees measured from 5 to 20 feet of timber each. The weeding of that lot was finished in 1800 and produced about £60 per acre, besides a considerable number of small trees which were sold, when very young, at such prices as they would bring. A tolerable crop of oak is left, though not so good as might have been gained had the firs been weeded out sooner from amongst them. Those which got air in time are now worth £1 each.

Five years after forming the first plantation, a second was made consisting of two acres of common fir, for which your father refused £200 sterling per acre and desired me to cut and fell them to the country, according to the demand that appeared, which I am at present doing. There are 425 trees on the acre, measuring about eleven feet each, which fell at fifteen pence per foot; consequently, the value thereof is £250 per acre or thereby.

A third plantation of 26 acres of common firs, with a few oak and ash trees, was executed in the year 1765; but the firs being too close on the ground choked most of the hard timber. The firs are now weeding for the English market where, I am convinced, they will produce fully £100 per acre. This plantation lies on high ground.

In 1772, a fourth plantation of 28 acres was made under the direction of your father, some of which with oak and common
and/

3.

extremely happy to communicate such further information as may be necessary or in my power to give.

I am,
etc.

February 5th 1901.

(Copied from the "Farmer's Magazine" - Volume 6th. 1805.

