

Stirling Castle Landscapes: The Butt Park and Haining. KPCC 12 June 2014

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OUTLINE

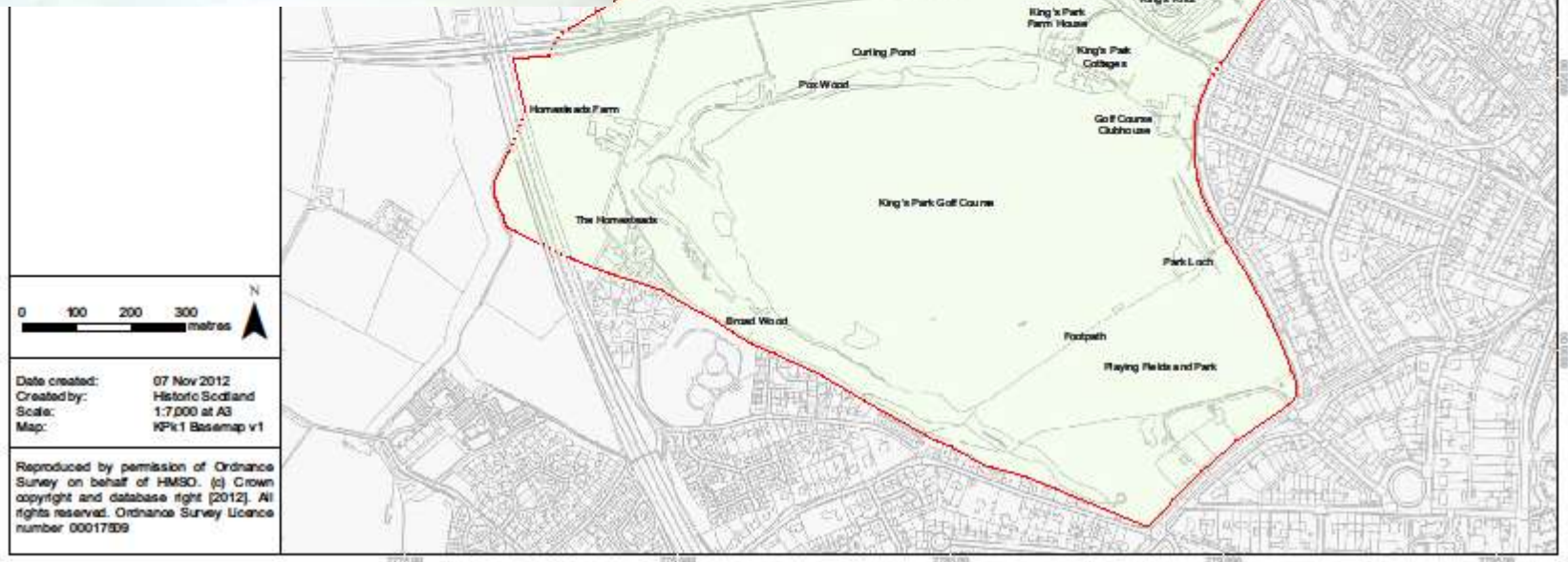
- Define Haining and Butt Park
- Do they matter?
- Context and history
- What is to be done?
- All species illustrated (except the cow!) are found in the area though not necessarily photographed there.





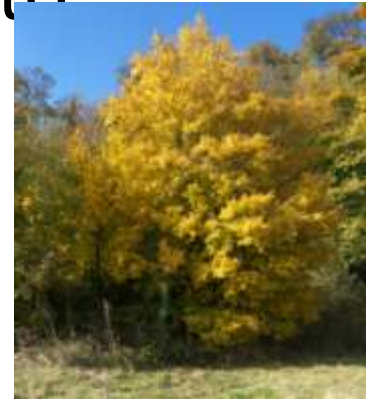


Outline of 16th century park



KP 2012

- King's Park, part of the patrimony of the Crown in Scotland to be transferred to ownership of Scottish ministers
- This is the consequence of
 - (a) pressure from KPCC
 - (b) **research** demonstrating the park's significance



Rejoice – And prepare for the next stage!

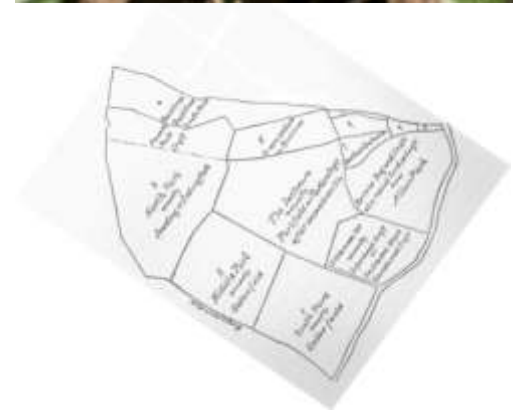
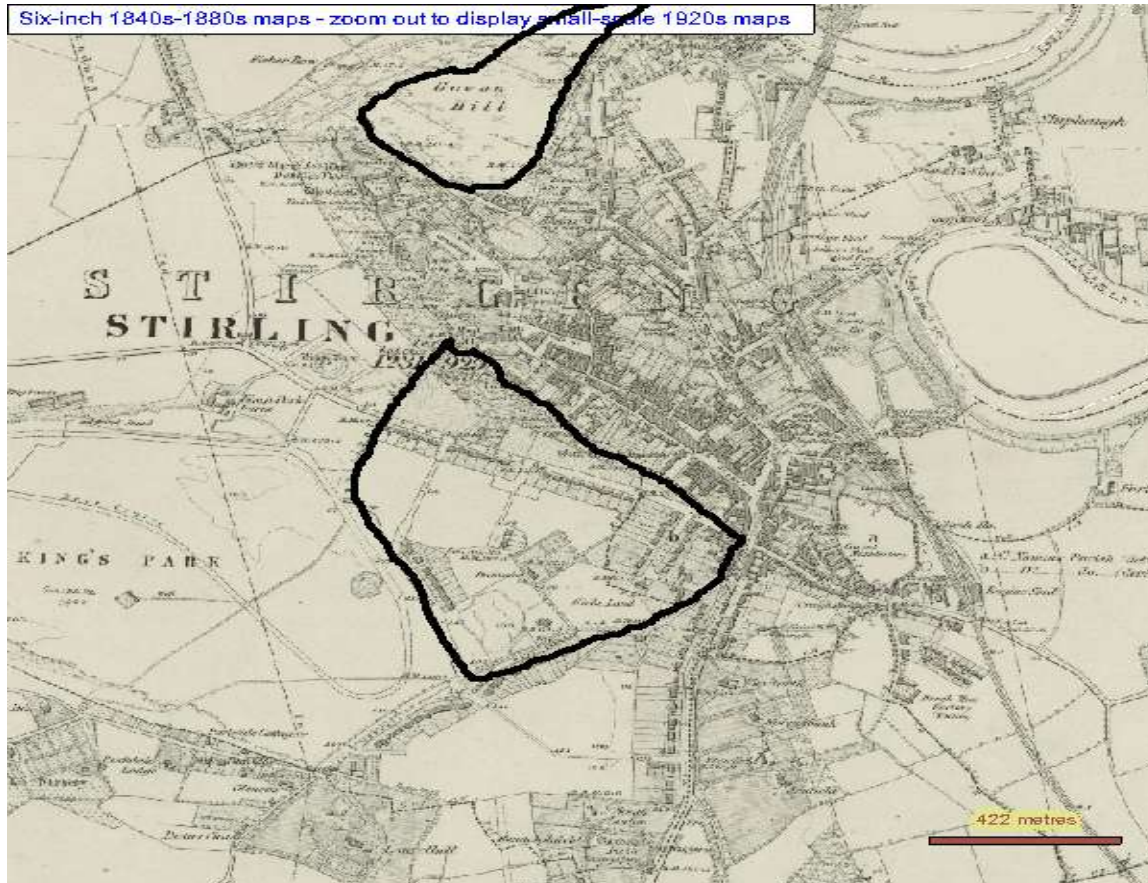
Think Big – **integrate** the parts with the whole

c. 1493-1507

- Radical redesign of landscapes (new pale, restocked, loch enlarged etc)
- Crown takes Gowane Hills in exchange for Justinflats
- New sports facilities in **Butt Park**; new garden in **Haining**
- *At the same time, the KOB, chapel royal, great hall, forework; Holy Rude kirk extended.*

The exchange of 1506

Six-inch 1840s-1880s maps - zoom out to display small-scale 1920s maps



James IV's Great Garden of the 1490s

- Haining – becomes an orchard probably with a terraced garden
- A renaissance garden of European significance.
-

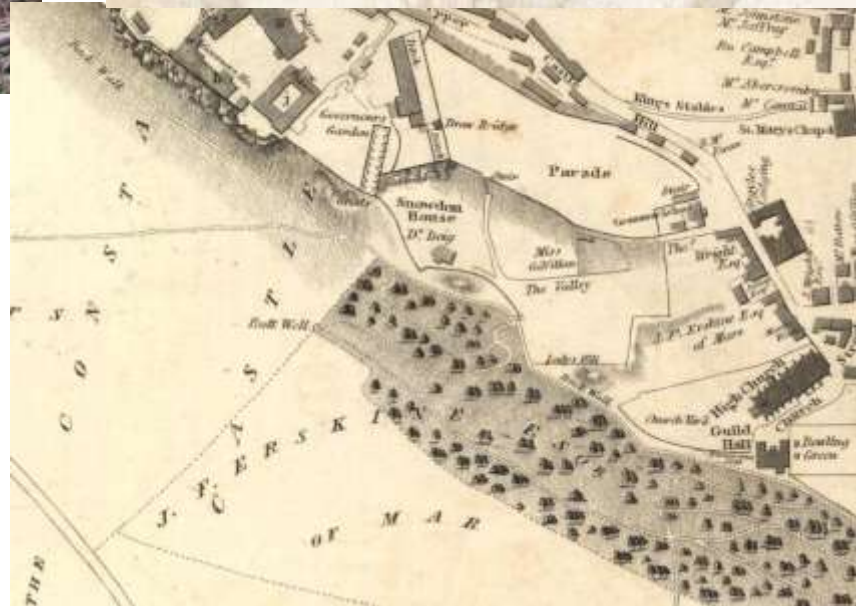


Lists and Butts in Butt Park

- Butt Park (which was adjacent to the stables) becomes pasture, tilt-yard and archery butts



Road of 1531

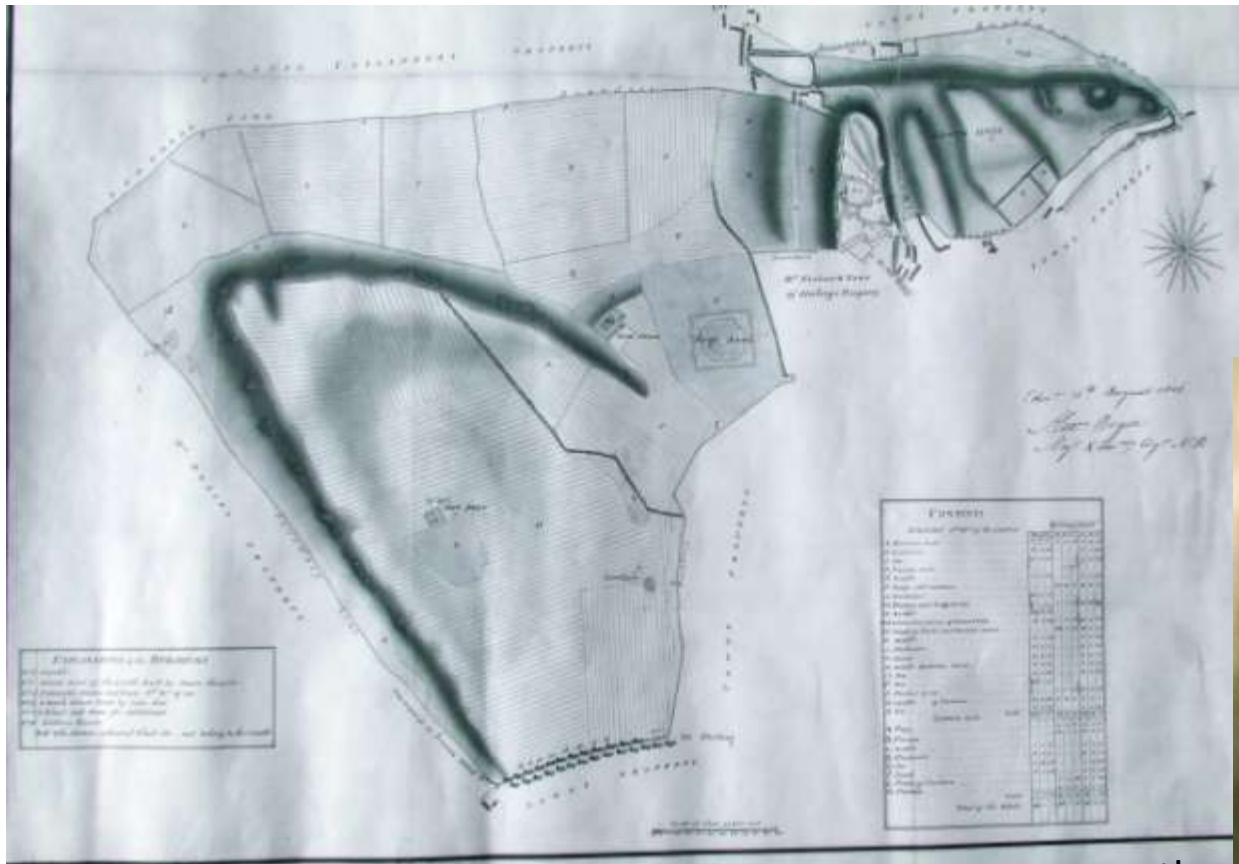


1580s – Haining granted to Erskines of Mar



Rude Croft in 1581 bounded by king's dyke on the west (SCA B66/1/24 p. 276-7)

Departure of royal court from 1603



King's Lands in
1806



- Haining orchard managed into early 18th century
- Other lands leased for pasture and other agricultural use

1790s onwards – management for amenity, visitors, sports, agriculture...



1940s



Ecological and Historical Zones

- Butt Park – modern, semi-improved pasture
- South Brae – former pasture, now 2ary woodland protected by wall
- Haining Brae – former garden now 2ary woodland
- Haining Haugh – former garden, now diverse meadow with garden escapes



Diversity and Meaning

- These are rare spaces, rich in biodiversity and historical meaning
- They are used by many people in varying ways – we might disapprove of some!
- The worst vandals have bulldozers and good intentions
- We need imagination, as well as hindsight and foresight.



Nettles indicate accumulated phosphate in the soil - these may be fertilised by the refuse from the Nissen Huts – or even from the 17th century gardener's house!

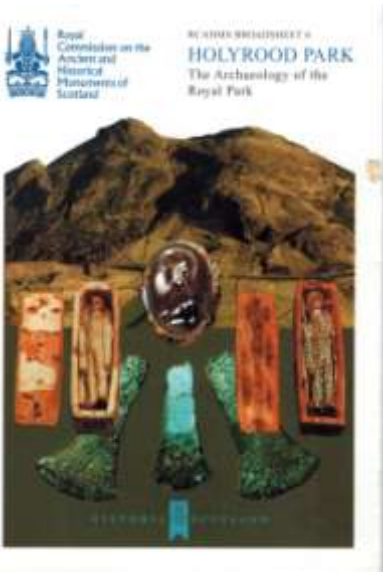
Ongoing Work

- Stirling Local History Society – geophysical survey of King's Knot (to be published in Forth Naturalist and Historian, Nov. 2013)
- Ongoing partnership between RCAHMS and SLHS to survey King's Park area
- Potential for a link between SLHS and KPCC for eg Interpretation



Stirling Castle Historic Landscapes Group

- Chaired by Chris Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland
- Academic and historical experts supported by Historic Scotland
- 31 Aug 2013 – FREE CONFERENCE at the Smith (donations accepted; own lunch)
- Speakers + a brief site viewing (weather permitting)
- Primarily for LOCAL PEOPLE highlighting the significance of this local asset
- Details TBA





Future

- Research
- Manage
- Interpret

- Maintain links with the wider landscapes and the castle
- Develop existing assets without damaging them
- Today's tastes and preferences must not destroy the historical evidence
- Biodiversity is NOT TIDY



