Following the purchase of the Pittencrieff Estate in 1902 by Andrew Carnegie, both Sir Patrick Geddes and Thomas Mawson submitted plans for the design and layout of Pittencrieff Park to Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust.

The park was laid out by James Whitton, Superintendent of Glasgow Botanic Gardens. They were charged with the task of retaining the natural beauty of the Glen, working within the existing landscape and adding to its built heritage.

In this leaflet, the locations of many of the built elements in Pittencrieff Park have been mapped so that you can find them on your visit. A range of leaflets have been produced for Pittencrieff Park, some of which may be able to provide more detail on specific features of the park such as the horticulture of the gardens and the many threads of history that relate to this site.

Louise Carnegie Memorial Gateway

The elaborate Louise Carnegie Memorial Railings and Gateway were installed in 1929. Designed by Jamieson and Arnott, the wrought-iron work was manufactured by Thomas Hadden, a blacksmith from Edinburgh, at a cost of about £30,000. The masonry work was executed by Robert Colli, a local Dunfermline builder.

Though it now makes a grand gateway into Pittencrieff Park, the gates at St Catherine’s Wynd, close to Dunfermline Abbey, were historically the “main” entrance.

In February 1942, metal railings from around Pittencrieff Park were surrendered for use in the war effort. These railings were subsequently given a reprieve by Dunfermline Town Council. Today the Louise Carnegie Gates are paved with Caithness slabs and are a focal point for many town traditions.

Statue of Andrew Carnegie

The bronze statue was designed by Richard R. Goulden, showing Andrew Carnegie, dressed in a frock coat, with his face “bearing that kindly but firm expression indicative of the indomitable will of the subject.”

The monument is 26 feet in height - the statue of bronze stands 9 feet 6 inches. It was unveiled in June 1914, in the presence of 20,000 people.

Pittencrieff Park restoration project

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with match support from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and Fife Council, a £1.6 million transformation to return this much loved green space to its former glory began in Autumn 2012.

Producing information on how Pittencrieff Park, or the Glen as it is known locally, became and continues to be a part of local culture and a way of life in Dunfermline is part of this project.

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Pittencrieff House
Built by Sir Alexander Clerk in 1610 as a three-storey home, the roof was raised and another storey added in 1731. It consists of an oblong main block, with a stairway projecting from the middle of the south side. The masonry is harled. The entrance, a moulded doorway, is situated at the stair foot bearing the inscription, “Praised be God for all His Gifts”.
Following acquisition of the estate by Andrew Carnegie in 1902, the house was restored throughout 1911 and 1912 by Sir Robert Lorimer. It has not been a dwelling since 1902, and most recently served as Pittencrieff House Museum.

Concert Hall & Music Pavilion
The Music Pavilion was opened in June 1935. It was designed by architect John Fraser in an Art Deco style and built by Robert Coll & Son at a cost of £12,000. On opening there was seating accommodation for 500 people in the main internal hall with an outdoor bandstand and terraced auditorium that could accommodate a further 500 people.

Double Bridge
This bridge spans Pittencrieff Glen and may also be known as the Tower Bridge due to its proximity to Malcolm Canmore’s Tower. The earliest recorded bridge across the burn in the Glen was called the ‘Gyrthbow’, documented in 1327. In 1611 the first stone-built bridge was built. A second arched bridge was added above it by the Laird, Captain George Phin, in 1788 to create a two-storey “double” bridge. A stone bearing his heraldic arms - a pelican pecking at its breast above a pelican erect - can be seen. The parapet was added later by architect, James Shearer.

St. Catherine’s Chapel & Almshouse
The chapel was dedicated to St Catherine the Virgin. The almshouse was also known as St. Catherine’s Hospital. Alms were given to poor pilgrims en route to St Andrews.

Heugh Mills
There were three water-powered mills (producing flour, meal and snuff) situated in Pittencrieff Glen. By 1819, water power proved inadequate and a steam engine was installed. Access to the remaining structures is limited though some of these can be seen from the lower Glen, close to the Moodie Street entrance.

Glasshouse
The original conservatories were built in 1913 and consisted of the main corridor (running west-east) with five wings adjoining this and running north-south. A replacement Floral Hall, known as the Glasshouse, was built in 1973. It became a single unit which was partitioned in to three sections. Major refurbishment of the glass, flooring and heating system took place in 2015. The west section has become the Glassroom - a community learning and activity facility.