

Pittencrieff PARK

Pittencrieff Park has a rich and varied history spanning across centuries of Scottish, British and world history. There have been changes but every day its history becomes richer.

From once housing the ancient seat of power in Scotland to becoming the much loved “Glen”, Pittencrieff Park has many layers of history for you to discover and explore.



History

With so much history there could never be a definitive summary of Pittencrieff Glen. This leaflet aims to highlight the historical significance of this much loved asset from home of Scottish Kings, Saints, pioneers and finally to a local boy turned benefactor.

Pittencrieff - from the Gaelic *Pit-an-craib*

Pit in Gaelic and *Pitt* in English signify a hollow while in Pictish *Pit* may mean a parcel of land or an estate; *craib* is from the Gaelic *craoibh*, pronounced *creiv*, meaning a tree or of the trees.

Therefore Pittencrieff would mean ***land or estate of the trees.***



Forming the west boundary of Dunfermline town, Pittencrieff Glen and its landscape have also influenced the development of the town and its name.

Dunfermline is derived from the Gaelic translations of *Dun* meaning fortified hill, *fiaram* meaning bent or crooked and *lin* meaning a cascade or pool.

This is also reflected in the Dunfermline town crest with the Latin motto:

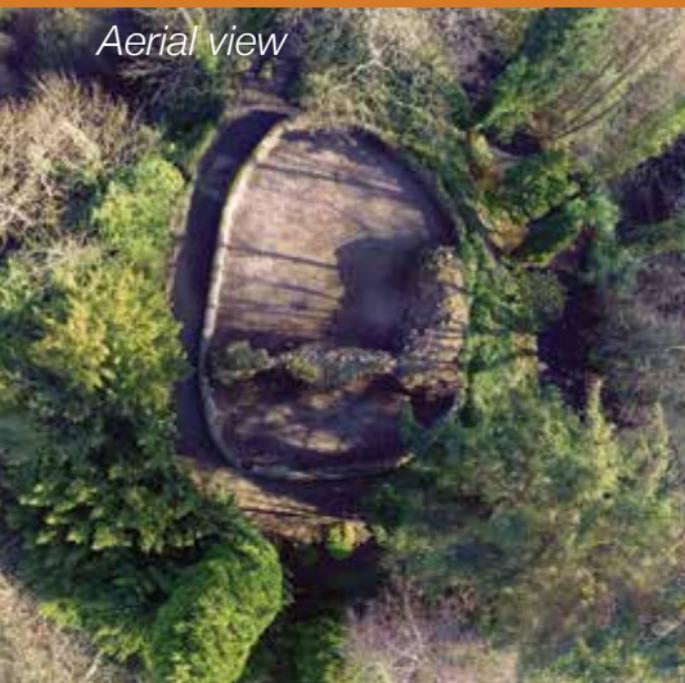
“*Esto rupes inaccessa*”,
means “be an
inaccessible rock”.



Dunfermline Abbey and Palace stand at what is now the east boundary of Pittencrieff Park

Malcolm Canmore's Tower

Aerial view



Malcolm Canmore's Tower

The first mention of the Tower in the historical record is 1070 AD when King Malcolm III (also known as Malcolm Canmore) married his second wife and queen, Princess Margaret (Margaret of Wessex).

The tower stood on a highly defensible outcrop of rock with surrounding views. It is thought to have contained living areas and acted as a fortress on the outskirts of the town. Dunfermline Abbey and Palace were built later (in the 12th and 14th centuries) so the tower would have been the seat of royal power in Scotland from the middle of the 11th century.

King of Scotland

Malcolm III of Scotland (1031 - 1093) was the eldest son of King Duncan I and reigned for 35 years from 1058 until his death. He appears in Shakespeare's play Macbeth.

Macbeth succeeded Duncan, after killing him, as King of Scotland before Malcolm eventually came to power.

With his first wife, Ingibiorg, Malcolm had a son who would later become Duncan II (King of Scots).

With his second wife, Margaret, Malcolm had a further eight children: Edward (Prince of Scotland), Edmund, Ethelred, Edgar (King of Scots), Alexander I (King of Scots), David I (King of Scots), Edith/Matilda (Queen of England), Mary (Countess of Boulogne).

Malcolm died at Alnwick in 1093 and was buried at Dunfermline Abbey. His son, from his first marriage, Duncan II succeeded him.



Queen Margaret

Margaret of Wessex was born in 1045 in exile in Hungary, though she was a Saxon princess. Her family returned to England in 1057 then fled to Scotland in 1066 where she later married Malcolm III.

Queen Margaret was a pious woman. Among her many charitable works she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth for pilgrims travelling to St. Andrews. This gave the towns of Queensferry and North Queensferry their names.

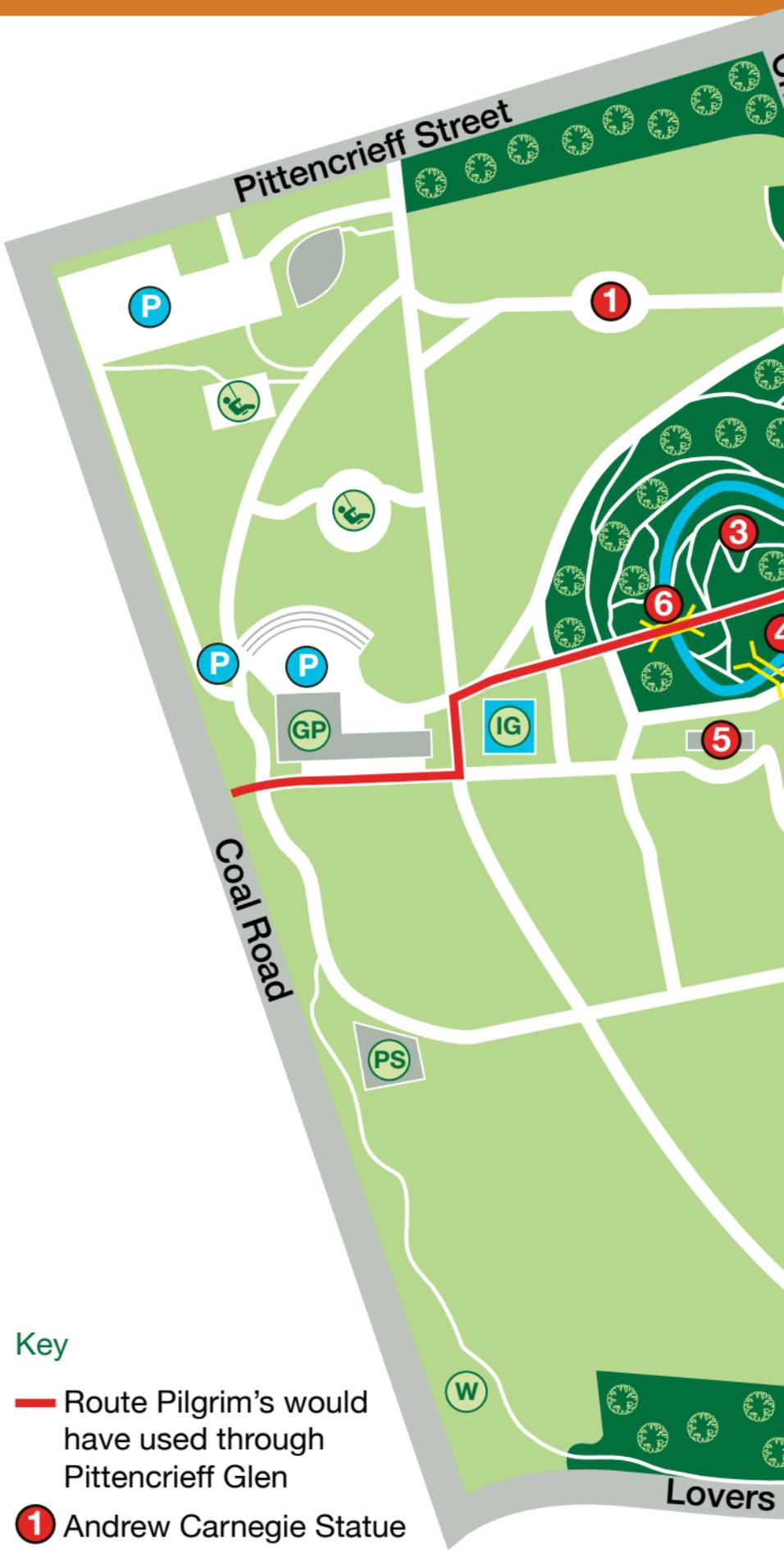
Amongst her other namesakes are local schools, the Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline, Queen Margaret University in Edinburgh, St Margaret's Chapel at Edinburgh Castle and the new Queensferry Crossing of the River Forth.

You can also visit St Margaret's Cave in Dunfermline which was used by Margaret as a place for prayer. She died just three days after the deaths of her husband and their son, in November 1093. In late 1249 Pope Innocent IV agreed to canonise Queen Margaret of Scotland and her remains were interred at Dunfermline Abbey in 1250, after which she could also be known as Saint Margaret.

Dunfermline Abbey and Palace

Dunfermline Abbey and Palace stand at what is now the east boundary of Pittencrieff Park. The Palace was the birthplace and home of many royals before the departure of James VI and I for London in 1603 when the crowns were united. Before it fell in to ruin the palace would have looked out across Pittencrieff Glen and to the west of Scotland beyond.

History

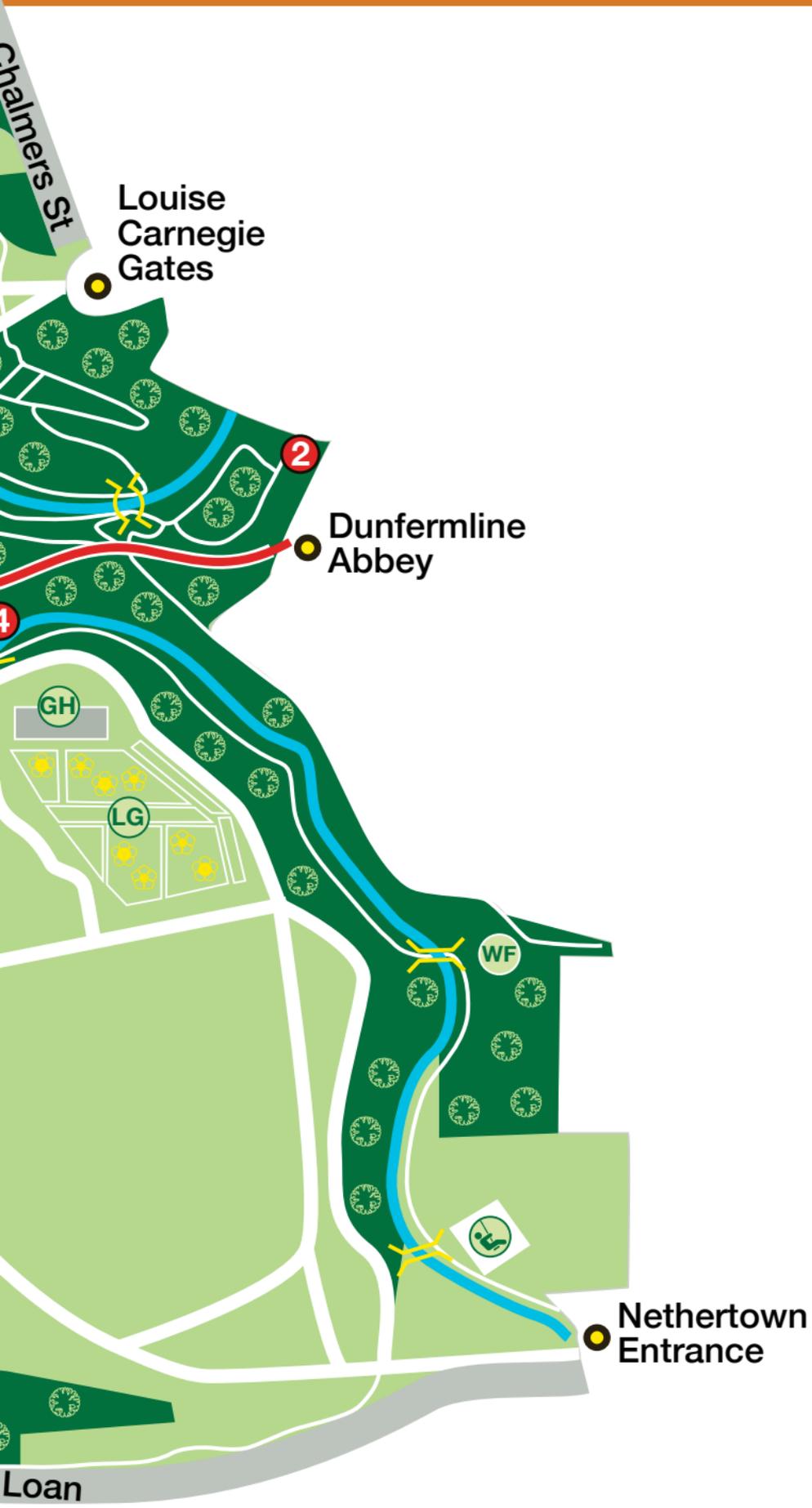


Key

— Route Pilgrim's would have used through Pittencrieff Glen

- ① Andrew Carnegie Statue
- ② St Catherine's Almshouse
- ③ Malcolm Canmore's Tower
- ④ Wallace's Well
- ⑤ Pittencrieff House
- ⑥ Double Bridge
- GP Glen Pavilion
- IG Italian Garden
- GH Glasshouse
- LG Lairds Garden
- PS Peacock Sanctuary

- W Wildlife Area
- WF Waterfall
- Playpark
- P Parking
- Woodland
- Lawn
- Bridge
- Humpback Bridge





Pilgrims

The original route followed by pilgrims from the west would have brought them over the Double Bridge and they would have climbed up the hill towards Dunfermline Abbey. The park as we know it today would not have existed; pilgrims would have come across country along a route just south of where the Glen Pavilion now stands and into the forests of Pittencrieff before crossing the burn and reaching the abbey.

Poor pilgrims would have visited St Catherine's Almshouse to receive alms in the form of food and drink and in some cases medical care.

The first stone bridge was built with money given by Anne of Denmark in 1611 to ease the journey of pilgrims going to the Abbey. The original stone carving showing the year 1611 is difficult to see but is immediately below the "AR" (Anna Regina 1611). The year 1788, indicating later works, can be clearly seen on the keystone of the lower bridge. When a replacement bridge was needed some years later it was built above the original creating the "Double Bridge" we see today.

St. Catherine's Almshouse

St Catherine's Chapel and Almshouse were first mentioned in relation to Dunfermline Abbey in 1327.

Alms were given to locals, visitors and pilgrims when needed. Almoners collected, or were given, donations of food and drink. They would then distribute these from the almshouse outside the gate near the Chapel of St Catherine the Virgin.

The only visible part of the chapel and hospital is a buttressed sandstone wall which is just inside the park boundary, below St Catherine's Wynd. This wall is approximately five metres in height,



is supported by large buttresses, and is largely ivy covered. Remnants of small windows are also evident at its south end.

Wallace's Well

Following success by the English army at the Battle of Falkirk in 1298, William Wallace evaded capture for several years.

In 1303 he visited Dunfermline, supposedly to St. Margaret's Shrine, with his mother. Tradition has it that his mother would later die in Dunfermline on one of her son's flights and that she was hastily buried at the spot in the Abbey's graveyard marked by The Thorn Tree.

Shortly afterwards, William Wallace was in Dunfermline again, probably to escape from the English spies. During this time the glen of Pittencrieff would have been a relatively large, dense woodland. It is believed that this area close to St Margaret's Cave and Wallace's Well would have been his place of shelter. In the forest of Dunfermline the renowned Wallace may have had meetings with friends to discuss delivering himself up to Edward of England. He was eventually captured and executed in 1305.

Whilst work was being carried out on the Tower Hill in 1906, a cave was found close to the Tower Burn which is believed to be the site of Wallace's Well. It had a small entrance and there was some evidence of it being used as a habitat. Further investigations were carried out as recently as 2013 when stone steps, which appear to lead from the entrance up the banking to the west and possibly towards the Abbey, were revealed.



Forbes Legacy

General John Forbes was born in Edinburgh in 1707 and grew up on his family estate at Pittencrieff. He was a British Army Officer who is best known for commanding the Forbes Expedition, during which British soldiers were sent to capture Fort Duquesne in America, which they eventually achieved in late 1758. The city was renamed Pittsburgh. General Forbes did not return to Dunfermline after this success and died in Philadelphia in March 1759. The Forbes family lived in Pittencrieff House from 1701 - 1763.

John Forbes is remembered and celebrated in Pittsburgh where roads and Forbes Field, former home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh Steelers and Pittsburgh Panthers sports teams, are named in his honour.

Pittencrieff House and Estate

When built by Sir Alexander Clerk in 1610, Pittencrieff House had three storeys. In 1731, the roof was raised and another storey added.

After several owners came and went, a local merchant called William Hunt purchased the estate in 1800. It remained in this family, until Colonel James Hunt sold the property to Andrew Carnegie for £45,000 in 1902.

Following the purchase of the Pittencrieff Estate, Andrew Carnegie's plan to create a public park that would be freely accessible to the people of Dunfermline and visitors to the town was set in motion. A restoration programme was undertaken by Sir Robert Lorimer between 1911 and 1913 to create two long galleries for museum and art exhibition space. Today the house serves as Pittencrieff House Museum.

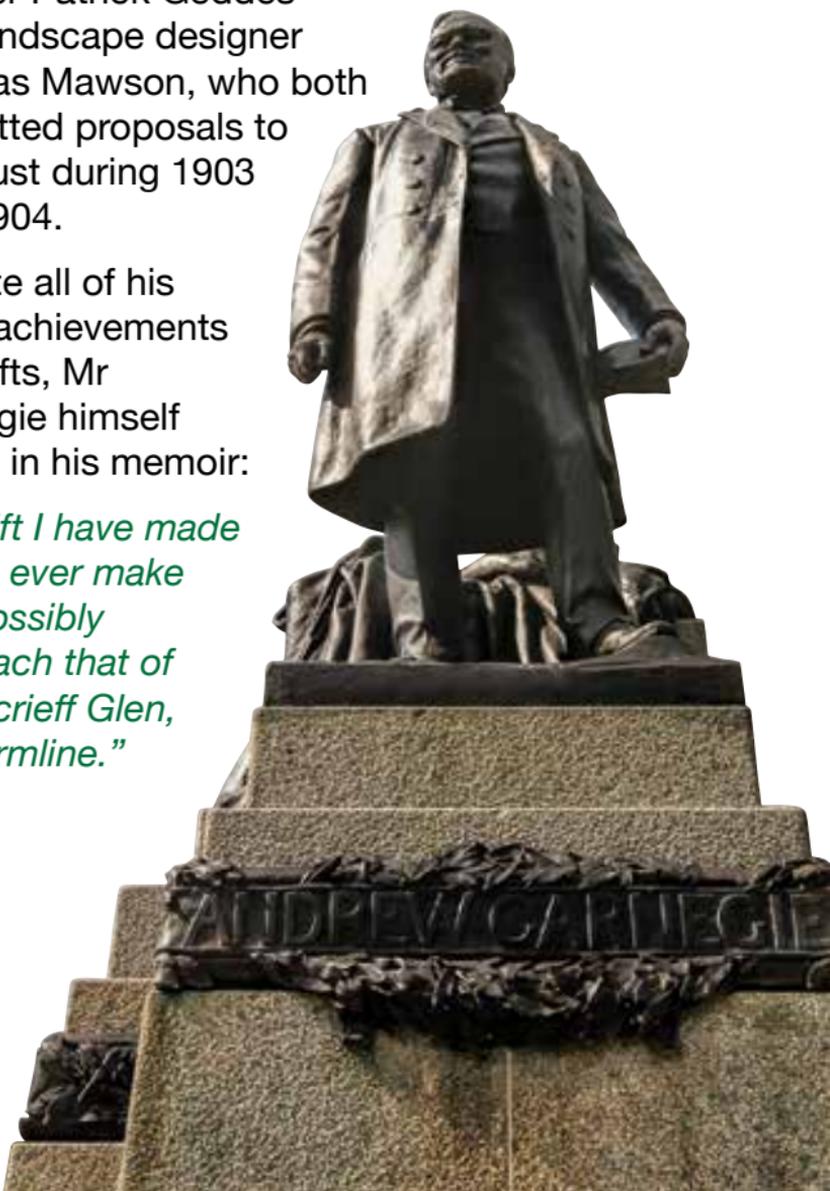
“Sweetness and Light”

The industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie was born within sight of Pittencrieff Glen in 1835. After making his fortune in the steel industry of Pittsburgh he retired from business and began distributing his fortune to causes and projects around the world which included building libraries and universities. He never forgot his home town, which he left for America in 1848. He set up the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust to carry out his wishes of creating a recreational park that would bring *“sweetness and light”* to the toiling masses of Dunfermline.

Development of the estate as a civic space has been influenced by world-renowned urban planner Patrick Geddes and landscape designer Thomas Mawson, who both submitted proposals to the Trust during 1903 and 1904.

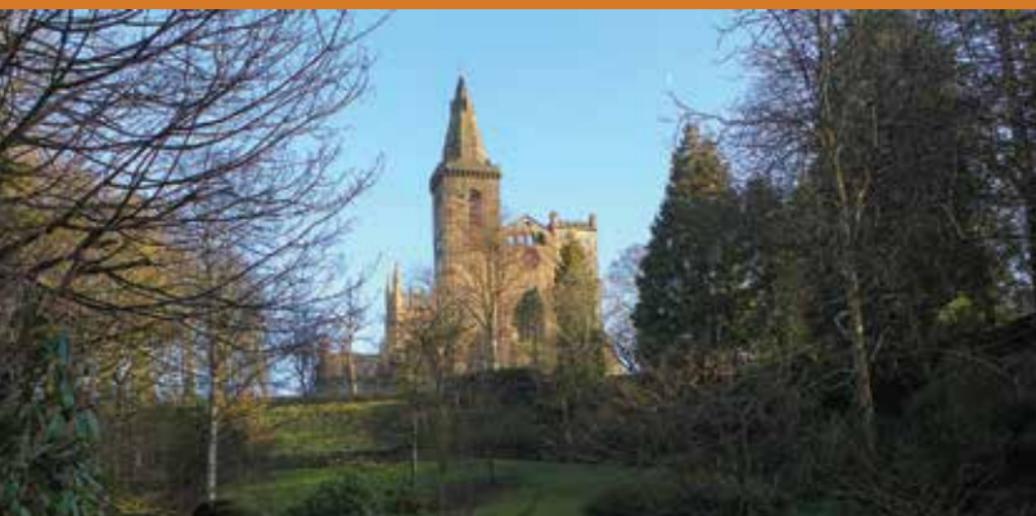
Despite all of his other achievements and gifts, Mr Carnegie himself stated in his memoir:

“No gift I have made or can ever make can possibly approach that of Pittencrieff Glen, Dunfermline.”



The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust entered into a management agreement with Fife Council in 1976. The council carry out the daily management and maintenance of the park.

Throughout Dunfermline and beyond, many of Andrew Carnegie’s gifts can be visited. A more complete history and background of his life can be found at the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum, found just outside of Pittencrieff Park on Moodie Street.



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 and providing information about the historical significance of Pittencrieff Glen is part of this project.

