

The King's Park at Stirling Castle

Current Boundaries

Introduction

1. The King's Park History Group is a committee of academic experts working on the history of the King's Park and its continuing importance to Scotland. The Group is chaired by Professor Christopher Smout, CBE, HM Historiographer in Scotland.
2. At the Group's first meeting in September 2012, members agreed a two page statement which was then made available for circulation to others. The statement provided a summary account of the history and national significance of the King's Park.
3. Given the current debate about the future of the Park, the statement also set out the view of Group members that if there is to be any change in ownership of the ancient Crown land that makes up the King's Park, the land should be transferred to Scottish Ministers who already own Stirling Castle on behalf of the nation. The Park has been a part of the Castle for nine centuries.
4. At the Group's second meeting in November 2012, the current boundaries of the Park were considered in more detailed and the Group adopted the attached boundary map as its base map of the Park, for use in mapping other information from the Group's work.

Boundary Map

5. The current boundaries of the King's Park are shown on the attached map, giving a perimeter of approximately 6.7 kilometres around the 149 hectare Park.
 6. The Park dates from the 12th century and is Scotland's oldest recorded and only remaining royal park. The last major change in the Park's boundaries was in 1506, when the Crown added the Gowane Hills on the east side of the Castle to the Park, in exchange for giving some land from the Park to the Town in the present Victoria Square area. There have only been very limited boundary changes and hardly any loss of land from the Park since then.
 7. The remarkable extent to which the ancient King's Park has survived to the present day is reflected in the very high degree to which the current boundaries of the King's Park date either from its origins in the 12th century or from the land exchange in 1506.
 8. Research shows that over 50% of the length of the current boundaries might be considered to follow the approximate line of original boundaries from 900 years ago and a further 30% from 1506, so that over 80% of the length of the Park boundaries is over 500 years old and there are indications that this may be over 90%, depending on further investigations in the Back o' Hill road area north of the Castle.
 9. While historically the Crown owned all the King's Park and continues to own around 90% of the land, Scottish Ministers now own The King's Knot and Stirling Council some other small parts of the Park (for example, The Haining). There are also a few private houses, mainly at the Homesteads, and the public roads through the Park.
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Current Boundaries

-  Stirling Castle
-  King's Park



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Scale: 1:7,000 at A3
Map: KPk1 Basemap v1

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