



### Location and Context

The *Urban Greenspace* Landscape Character Type occurs in two areas, namely Pollok and Hurllet, which are located in Renfrewshire and East Renfrewshire Local Authority areas. They are both on the southern side of Glasgow, forming two distinct areas of undeveloped land enclosed within the urban area. These are the remains of large estate landscapes.

### Key Characteristics

- Remnant policy woodlands and landscapes creating distinctive pockets of open countryside landscape within the urban area.
- Gently undulating landform.
- Visual influence of surrounding urban areas and activities.
- Fragmented land management in some areas.

### Landscape Character Description

#### *Landform*

The *Urban Greenspace* Landscape Character Areas are located on the southern side of Glasgow, forming two distinct areas of undeveloped land enclosed within the urban area. These are the remains of large estate landscapes. The eastern lying area is Pollok Park which is the policy landscape associated with A-listed Pollok House and also contains the Burrell Museum. The more western area is an area known as the Hurllet Policies, bounded by Nitshill, Paisley and Dykebar. Both of these areas have a strategic location, being significant areas of green space within the southern part of the city. The character of these areas is in part derived from their relative tranquillity and the contrast they provide with the enclosing urban areas. The linking Green Corridors are important extensions of these green spaces for both nature conservation and amenity.

Both of these areas of *Urban Greenspace* lie on the broken belt of carboniferous limestone that encircles the city. The landform is gently undulating, partly defined by fluvio-glacial deposits such as drumlins. A series of watercourses traverses the area around these two

landscape types including the White Cart Water and the Brock Burn. The White Cart and the Levern Water (as distinct from the River Leven which drains into the Clyde from Loch Lomond) are both part of the Carts Nature Conservation Strategy. A series of watercourses converge on the areas of Hurllet and Pollok and these have a major role to play in the protection and enhancement of the policy landscapes.

#### *Landcover*

Both the Pollok and Hurllet *Urban Greenspace* landscapes are quite well wooded as they still contain tracts of estate planting and policy woodlands. There are also areas of low scrub and both areas have a predominance of improved pasture land. To the north of the Hurllet Policy there is also a tract of arable land. Each contains a golf course.

The Pollok Estate represents a relatively intact planned landscape including parkland, gardens and estate buildings. It is included on the Inventory of Designed Landscapes and is also a Conservation Area. The designed landscape dates from the mid-18th Century, but much of the planting layout now dates to the late 19th Century. The River White Cart is an important element within the designed landscape and has been canalised for part of its course in front of the house. The house is accessed from the north, but important views are south-south-west, over the river and parkland (now golf course) beyond. It is publicly owned and managed and is a much valued part of the city.

The Hurllet Policy landscape also represents part of the planned landscapes of the Hawkhead, Ralston and Hurllet Estates. It is, however, more fragmented - little of the historic planting survives with the exception of individual areas of policy woodland, and this is under mixed management and ownership.

#### *Settlement*

Neither of the areas is settled, although the Pollok Estate contains Pollok House, associated estate buildings and cottages, and the Burrell Museum. There is considerable development pressure around the fragmented edges of the Pollok Estate, especially as there are pockets of parklands now cut off from the main body of the estate by new road proposals. The M77 runs through one edge of the estate and has a major visual and aural impact on the area of the park through which it passes.

Pollok is protected to some extent by its cohesion, reputation, ownership and inclusion in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes. The Hurllet area is far more fragmented and less well known and parts have been developed recently. Within the area of the Hurllet there is parkland, farmland, and remnants of several estates including Thornly Park Estate, Hawkhead Estate, Hurllet Estate and Ralston Estate. Some of these areas are in use as hospitals and schools. There are considerable areas of under-farmed and underused farmland, especially around the edges of the Hurllet area. Some of the land is leased in short term lets. Coupled with the diverse ownership of the land, this leads to incohesive conditions and a lack of distinct identity. In addition some of the area's most distinctive assets are not in use or are derelict, and are in danger of being completely lost.

Hurllet and Pollok lie in an area of the city where several road and rail corridors converge. This again leads to development pressure. Land holdings tend to become fragmented

adjacent to major roads. Both Hurler and Pollok have Green Corridors to the countryside which is what makes these policy landscapes so unusual in the urban context.

There are various historic landmarks throughout these areas relating to their estate past, including policy woodlands, walls and buildings. There is also an old mill and a few more ancient relics including a carved ringwork cross. The water tower of Leverndale Hospital, and Pollok House at the heart of Pollock Park, are the key landmarks. Views within the Pollok area are very limited due to the density of tree and woodland cover, but principal views from the house are south-westerly over the river.

### *Perception*

This landscape provides a mix of both tranquil and highly busy areas around the motorway and major roads. The tranquil areas are highly valued in their context.

This is one of 390 Landscape Character Types identified at a scale of 1:50 000 as part of a national programme of Landscape Character Assessment republished in 2019.

The area covered by this Landscape Character Type was originally included in the Glasgow and Clyde Valley LCA (Land Use Consultants), published 1999.