

Historic Orchards of the Carse of Gowrie

Phase 1: An Investigative Survey on their Location, Extent and Condition

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by

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Survey conducted on behalf of
Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust www.pkct.org

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- Paul McLennan at the Trust
- Catherine Lloyd at Tayside Biodiversity Partnership
- Syd House & Hazel MacLean at Forestry Commission Scotland
- and of course all the orchard keepers and others people that contributed

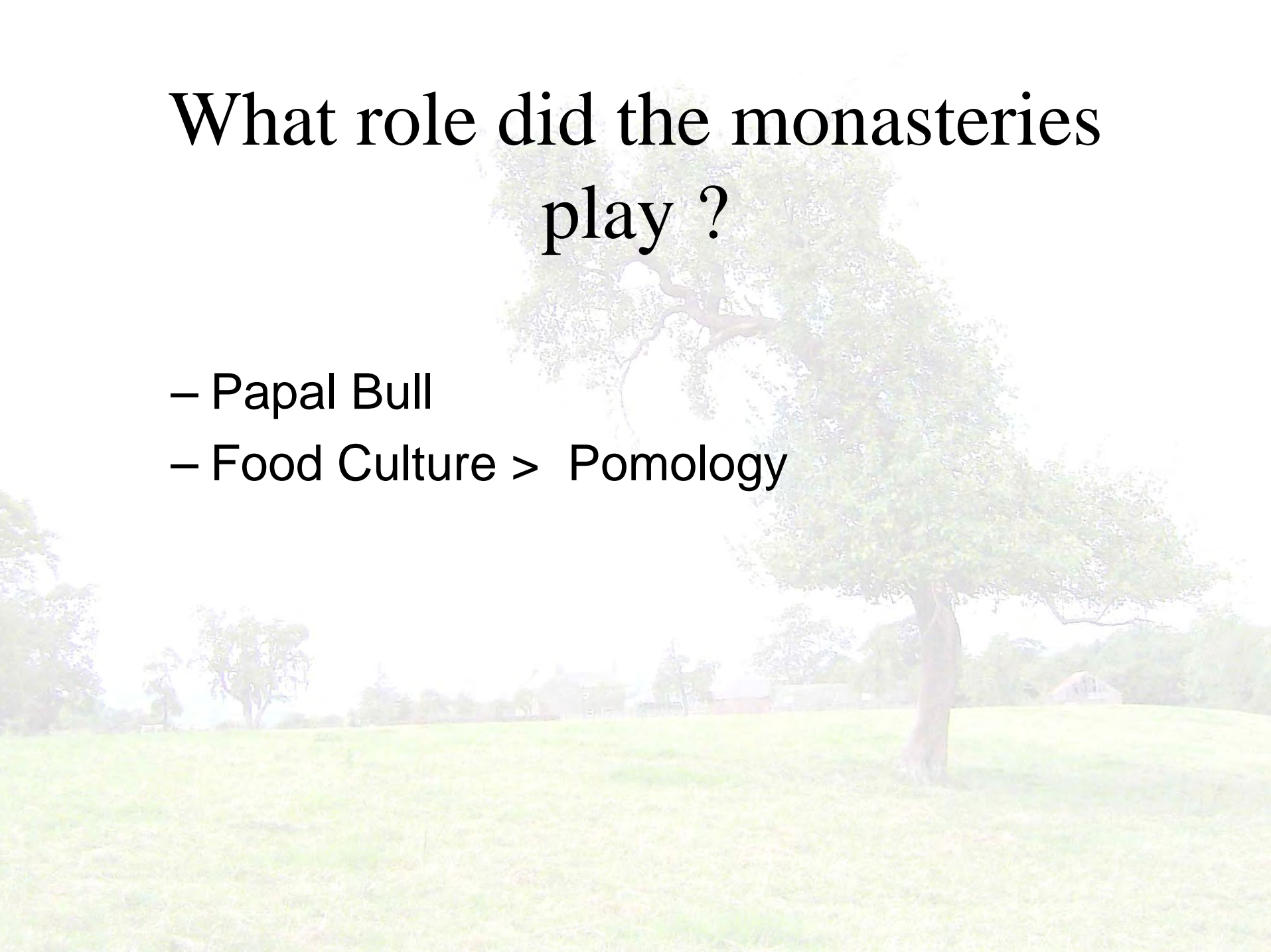
Heritage ?

A large, leafy tree stands in a grassy field. In the background, there is a barn and other buildings, suggesting a rural or farm setting. The image is slightly faded, serving as a background for the text.

- Have there always been orchards on the Carse?
- How old are the orchards?

What role did the monasteries play ?

- Papal Bull
- Food Culture > Pomology



What was the economic significance of the orchards ?

Produce of Longforgan Parish, 1845

795 Scots acres of wheat, supposed to yield 3265 qrs. 4 bush. at L. 2, 11s. 5d. per gr., being average of fiars for the last seven years,	L. 8995	1	1½	-
710 do. of barley, yielding 3469 qrs. 2 bush. at L. 1, 8s. 5½d.	4931	5	9½	
970 do. of oats yielding 5090 qrs. 2 bush. at L. 1, 1s. 9d.	5585	12	11½	
238 do. of pease and beans, yielding 922 qrs. 2 bush. at L. 1, 7s. 7½d. do.	1279	17	1½	
358 do of potatoes, at L. 9, 11s. 6d. per acre,	3427	17	0	
467 do. of turnips, at L. 3, 3s. per do.	1471	1	0	
555 do. of cutting grass, at L. 8, 6s. per do.	3496	10	0	
294 do. of pasture, at L. 3, 5s. per do.	955	10	0	
974 do. of do. at L. 1, 7s. 6d. per do.	1339	5	0	
Produce of quarries,	3000	0	0	
orchards,	500	0	0	
Thinning of wood,	1800	0	0	
Total yearly value of raw produce,	L. 36,126	0	0	

Decline & Globalisation

"The late eighteenth century and the first part of the nineteenth century probably saw the Carse orchards at their most productive, but during the second half of the nineteenth century circumstances combined to cause a decline that continued during the early years of the present [20th] century."

Hodd 1975

The Role of Globalisation

In 1884 Robertson wrote

" I was truly sorry to see so many large orchards in the Carse with so very few of the large kinds - apples that are really worth being sent to market, and likely to be able to compete with those brought from the Continent and from America"

The Role of Poor Management

Robertson (1884) states:

“The cultivation of fruit in this country, especially in Scotland, has been neglected of late. In the Carse of Gowrie, as well as elsewhere, many good orchards have been allowed to run to waste. There has been a great outcry as to bad seasons, and not without good cause, but bad culture has as much to do with it as bad seasons”

Fifty years ago in 1958, Turner wrote that

“these orchards have not within living memory, been managed correctly”

Carse of Gowrie Orchards Recorded Since 1750

Roy's Military Map 1750	Gorne & Machray 1814	OS map 1860s	Historic Orchard	Parish/Area
yes	yes		Annat Cottage	Rait
			Ardgaith	Errol
		yes	Balgay	Inchture
		yes	Ballindean	
		yes	Bathaydock	
			Bervie	
	yes		Bogmiln	Grange
yes			Castle Huntly	
yes			Clashbenny	St Madoes
yes	yes		Craigdallie	Kinnaird
	yes		Drimmie	Inchture
yes			Errol Park	
	yes		Errol Village	Errol
yes	yes	yes	Fingask	
		yes	Flatfield	
			Friaton/ Barnhill Toll	
	yes	yes	Glencarse House	
	yes		Glendoick	
		yes	Gourdiehill	
		yes	Grange	
	yes		Hill (Errol Parish)	Errol
		yes	Horn	Inchmichael

		yes	Horn	Inchmichael
	yes		Inchmartin	Errol
	yes		Inchture	
yes			Kilspindie	
	yes		Kinfauns Castle	
		yes	Mains of Kinnaird	
	yes	yes	Megginch	
yes (Leys)	yes		Midleys	Grange
	yes	yes	Muirhouses	Grange
yes			Murie	Errol
			Mylnefield	
		yes	New Farm (Errol)	
	yes		Newbigging	
		yes	Newton of Glencarse	
	yes	yes	Onthank (now Broomhall ?)	Inchture
	yes		Overyards	Longforgan
yes			Panshill	by Glencarse
			Pilmore	
yes	yes	yes	Pitfour	St Madoes
yes			Pitroddie	
	yes	yes	Port Allen (Pow of Errol)	
	yes	yes	Powgavie	Grange
		yes	Rait	
	yes	yes	Rawes	Longforgan
			Rossie Priory	
	yes	yes	Seasides	
	yes	yes	Seggieden	
		yes	Shipbriggs	Megginch
		yes	Templehall/ Monorgan	
	yes	yes	Waterybutts	Grange

Survey Methods

- Historical List
- Verification Aspect
- seven days between 21st August 2007 and 6th September 2007
- Photographic record made.
- Personal information will remain entirely confidential.

Data collected

- Contact data for orchard keeper
- Keeper use and knowledge of orchard
- Size & location
- Survey management data
- Biodiversity criteria, including condition of trees
- Historical notes
- Survey notes including anecdotal material from keeper and others

Data Recording

Carse Orchards 2007

Home Open Trees for this Location Summary Window

Location ID: LOC Surveyor: Crispin W. Hayes

Location type: agricultural field

Record first created: 24/8/2007 & last modified: 15/9/2007

Name of keeper: [redacted]

Location address: [redacted]

Location postcode: [redacted]

Keeper since: 1946 Addresses same? same different

Keeper address: [redacted]

Keeper postcode: [redacted]

Use the fruit? no some alot

Keeper present at survey? yes no partly

grid location: NO

env scheme: [redacted]

orchard size (ha): ~5 orchard age (yrs): >100 no. of trees: ~40

current use of orchard: leased grazing

accessibility: good limited no access

orchard status: odd remnants

apple: yes no maybe

pear: yes no maybe

plum: yes no maybe

other species: [redacted]

tree interest: old trees fallen deadwood cavities

grazed ungrazed mown arable lawn other

orchard floor management: cattle

vegetation: grass

veteran tree features: holes in branches aerial roots trunk cavities
 water pools sap runs dead wood on ground
 dead wood in canopy loose bark
 crevices in bark fungal fruiting bodies

Historic orchard? yes no maybe

Historic orchard name: [redacted]

Orchard Existing? yes no partly

Historical Notes

Spoke to [redacted] on 31st August 2007. He showed the old sale prospectus from 1919 when the Castle Huntly Estate was broken up. Copies attached.

Survey Notes and Comments

grid ref corner of garden of house Orchard Gate at bottom of road. [redacted] helped with background info.

Mainly large old pears

Grazed by cattle, calves and a couple of horses.

[redacted] grandfather bought farm in 1946
Monorgan pears south east of orchard
Local people use fruit, and he is happy about that.

100 Browse

Survey Findings

Over 50 sites were visited and individually recorded during the course of the survey.

Findings presented:

- Historic Orchards Where No Significant Remains Exist
- The Existing Smaller Orchards
- The Existing Larger Orchards

For detailed results download full report at **www.pkct.org**

Historic Orchards Where No Significant Remains Exist

Historic Orchard	Parish/Area	Assessed by	Last existed	How lost	Comments
Annat Cottage	Rait	visit	1970s	Old age	now garden
Balgay	Inchtute	visit	1980s	Cleared	for agriculture
Benvie		visit			now agriculture
Castle Huntly		visit			now pasture
Errol Village	Errol				now built on ?
Glencarse House		visit			now pasture/ woodland
Glendoick		visit			now woodland/ horticulture
Gourdiehill		visit	1989	Cleared	for a housing estate
Hill (Errol Parish)	Errol	verbal			
Horn	Inchmichael	visit	1970s	Cleared	for farm buildings & agric.
Kilspindie		visit			now garden
Kinfauns Castle		visit	1974	A90 road	Home Farm Orchard below Castle
Mains of Kinnaird		visit			now pasture
Midleys	Grange				now part of Errol Airfield Industrial site?
Murie	Errol	verbal			
New Farm (Errol)		verbal			
Onthank	Inchtute				now Broomhall feed mill ?
Overyards	Longforgan	visit			now garden
Pitfour	St Madoes	visit	1969	Cleared	for agriculture
Powgavie	Grange	visit	1990s	Old age	now pasture
Rait		visit			now pasture/ housing
Rawes	Longforgan	visit	~1990	Old age	now pasture
Rossie Priory		visit			now pasture
Seasides		visit	~1985		now pasture
Seggieden		visit			now pasture
Shipbriggs	Megglinch	visit			now woodland
Waterybutts	Grange	visit			now pasture/railway

Gourdiehill

- Largest orchard on Carse
- Patrick Matthews
- 10,000 trees
- 1860s two sons began NZ fruit orchards – stock from Gourdiehill.
- Final remnant cleared 1989 for housing estate



Pitfour

- Local family brought up in wooden house in orchards in 1920 & 30s
- Apples, pears & plums mainly sold in Perth.
- Bramleys would be stored through to May
- Other varieties: Worcester Pearmain apple, Kilwinning Pear, Victoria Plum
- Sold in 1968, soon after cleared for agriculture











PHOTO 1994

The Remaining Small Orchards

Orchard	Parish/Area	Assessed by	Condition
Wester Ballindean		visit	abandonned but fair
Carse Grange		visit	fair/ good
Clashbenny Farm	St Madoes	visit	depleted but remnants good
Inchyra Farm		visit	abandonned but fair
Inchyra House		visit	depleted but remnants good

The Retreat, Carse Grange





Wester Ballindean - West





Wester Ballindean - East





The Remaining Larger Orchards

Orchard	Parish/Area	Assessed by	Condition
Bogmiln	Grange	visit	odd remnants
Craigdallie	Kinnaird	visit	damson thicket
Fingask		visit	depleted but new plantings
Flatfield		visit	depleted but remnants good
Friaton/ Barnhill Toll		visit	depleted but remnants good
Megginch		visit	a large number of good trees
Muirhouses	Grange	visit	still a few good remnants
Newbigging		visit	depleted but remnants good
Port Allen		visit	a large number of good trees
Templehall/ Monorgan		visit	depleted but remnants good

Barnhill Bar Toll (West Oaks)





Grange





Other orchards - The Pears at Wayside, Longforgan



Biodiversity Aspects

- the presence of ‘veteran’ trees
- the condition of the trees
- likely niche habitats in the trees
- the vegetation on the orchard floor
- the management of the orchard floor

Table of veteran trees features on back of Survey Summary Sheet



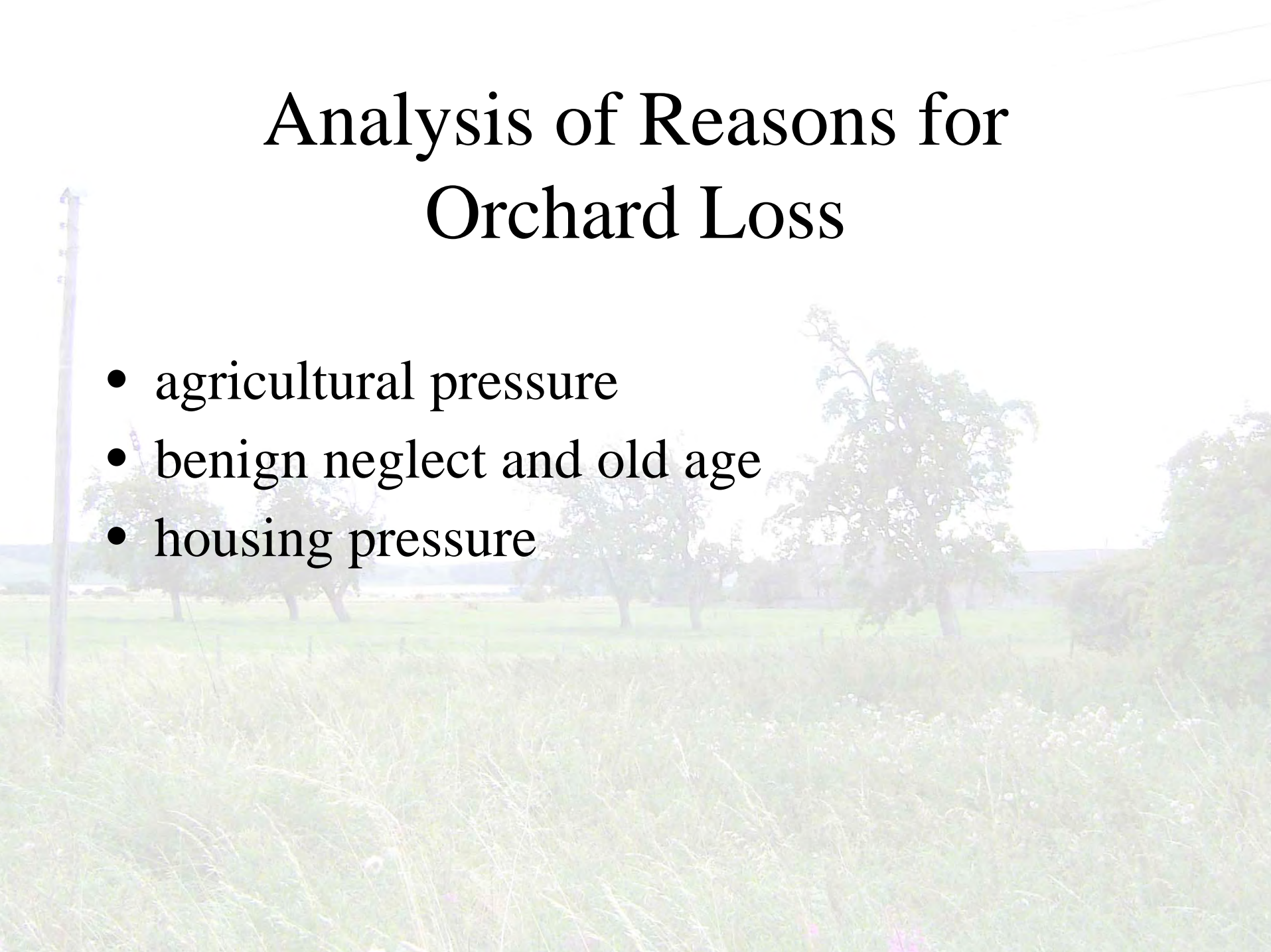


Orchard Floor Management

Location ID	Orchard	Location	Orchard Floor Management	Grazed by	Orchard Floor Main Species
L0030	Bogmln	Orchard to south of farm	grazed	cattle	grass
L0018	Carse Grange	The Retreat	mown		grass
L0019	Carse Grange	Orchard of Carse Grange	mown		grass
L0021	Carse Grange	Carse Grange	grazed	horse	grass
L0049	Clashbenny	Clashbenny Farm	mown		grass
L0042	Fingask	Fingask Castle	ungrazed		grass
L0038	Flatfield	Flatfield	grazed	horse	grass
L0003	Friaton/ Bamhill Toll	Orchard at Bamhill Toll or Friaton	ungrazed		willowherb
L0020	Grange	Orchard at Grange on southside of road	grazed	sheep	grass
L0012	Megginch	Megginch Castle	grazed	sheep	grass
L0032	Muirhouses	Muirhouses Farm	grazed	sheep	grass
L0034	Newbigging	Newbigging Farm	grazed	horse	grass
L0005	Newtown of Glencarse	St Magnus	mown		grass
L0048	Port Allen	Port Allen Orchard	mown		grass
L0016	Templehall/Monorgan	West of road	mown		grass
L0017	Templehall/Monorgan	East of road	grazed	cattle	grass
L0023	Wester Balingdean	Casa Gedzi	lawn		grass
L0024	Wester Balingdean	Carse View	lawn		grass
L0022	Wester Balingdean	West orchard at Wester Balingdean	ungrazed		nettles
L0010		Inchyra Farm	ungrazed		brambles

Analysis of Reasons for Orchard Loss

- agricultural pressure
- benign neglect and old age
- housing pressure



Proposal for Heritage Orchards

Why?

- better focussing of attention
- awareness-raising
- funding

Individual trees or varieties not recorded in survey.

Orchard Gems of the Carse

Location ID	Orchard	Location
L0018	Carse Grange	The Retreat
L0042	Fingask	Fingask Castle
L0038	Flatfield	Flatfield
L0003	Friaton/ Barnhill Toll	Orchard at Barnhill Toll or Friaton
L0020	Grange	Orchard at Grange on southside of road.
L0012	Megginch	Megginch Castle
L0048	Port Allen	Port Allen Orchard
L0017	Templehall/Monorgan	East of road
L0022	Wester Ballingdean	West orchard at Wester Ballindean

Historic but Diminished Orchards

Location ID	Orchard	Location
L0030	Bogmiln	Orchard to south of farm
L0032	Muirhouses	Muirhouses Farm
L0034	Newbigging	Newbigging Farm
L0016	Templehall/Monorgan	West of road
L0010		Inchyra Farm

Conclusions: Orchard Status

- This survey was timely. Most of the orchards of the Carse of Gowrie no longer exist. This has been confirmed by site visit.
- The orchards have been in demise for over a century. Clearance of orchards has accelerated over the last 50 years.
- Of those that remain, 17 have some heritage value.
- Of these, 9 orchards are of premier heritage interest.
- Orchards are still under pressure of total or partial destruction.
- Housing development is a major pressure for some orchards because planning gain is so lucrative.
- There is currently no presumption in favour of historic orchards in the planning process.

Conclusions: Fruit


- No orchards are operated commercially.
- In general fruit is not used to a great extent, though in a few orchards it is very actively used.
- Local people still make use of the fruit from abandoned orchards. The orchard's owners are usually content about it.
- Knowledge of varieties and their characteristics such as when to pick and how to store is generally poor. Old varieties of pears have a particular problem in this respect.

Conclusions: Management

- Most orchards have been neglected in terms of their management for at least half a century.
- Neglected orchards often have high biodiversity value.
- Veteran trees in the orchards satisfy multiple criteria of a biodiverse habitat.
- There is a general request for advice on how to management these old trees.
- Most trees in the orchards are very aged. Old pear trees may typically be 200 years old. The ongoing loss of trees indicates that most are near the end of their life.
- New plantings need to be made soon if orchards are to survive in the long term.

Recommendations

1. Awareness Raising.
2. Planning.
3. Engagement.
4. Mode of engagement.
5. Management Best Practice.
6. Fruit Days.

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7. Blossom Days.
 8. Carse Orchards Organisation.
 9. Survey of Varieties.
 10. Varietal Security.
 11. Economic Opportunities.

