Currie Conservation Area Character Appraisal
The Currie Conservation Area
Character Appraisal was Approved by the
Planning Committee
On 26 September 2000
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INTRODUCTION

Conservation Areas

Section 61 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, describes conservation areas as “...areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. The Act makes provision for the designation of conservation areas as distinct from individual buildings, and planning authorities are required to determine which parts of their areas merit conservation area status.

There are currently 39 conservation areas in Edinburgh, including city centre areas, Victorian suburbs and former villages. Each conservation area has its own unique character and appearance.

Character Appraisals

The protection of an area does not end with conservation area designation; rather designation demonstrates a commitment to positive action for the safeguarding and enhancement of character and appearance. The planning authority and the Scottish Ministers are obliged to protect conservation areas from development that would adversely affect their special character. It is, therefore, important that both the authorities and other groups who have an interest in conservation areas and residents are aware of those elements that must be preserved or enhanced.

A Character Appraisal is seen as the best method of defining the key elements, which contribute to the special historic and architectural character of an area.

It is intended that Character Appraisals will guide the local planning authority in making planning decisions and, where opportunities arise, preparing enhancement proposals. The Character Appraisal will be a material consideration when considering applications for development within the conservation area and applications for significant new developments should be accompanied by a contextual analysis that demonstrates how the proposals take account of the essential character of the area as identified in this document.

NPPG 18: Planning and the Historic Environment states that Conservation Area Character Appraisals should be prepared when reconsidering existing conservation area designations, promoting further designations or formulating enhancement schemes. The NPPG also specifies that Article 4 Direction Orders will not be confirmed unless a Character Appraisal is in place.
Currie Conservation Area

Currie Conservation Area was originally designated in on 28 June 1972 and extended on 29 May 1987. The conservation area was further extended in October 2003 to include Currie is situated 6 miles to the west of Edinburgh, occupying a ridge running alongside the Water of Leith and surrounded by Greenbelt. Originally a small, linear settlement which related historically to the Water of Leith to the south, and the farmland to the north. Following improvements in transport in the 19th and 20th centuries, it has significantly increased in size to become a dormitory suburb of Edinburgh.

The conservation area forms a relatively small part of Currie itself and is concentrated around the original historic village and Kirk. On the basis of the current designation, Currie Conservation Area extends eastwards to 135 Lanark Road West which is the Riccarton/Woodhall Arms public house, to the south, crosses Lanark Road West, with the edge being defined by No.142, a detached stone-built villa set in spacious garden ground; the boundary then continues to the rear of the Gibson-Craig memorial hall, the former police station and the bank and neighbouring properties, becoming less well defined at the edge of Riccarton Mains Road where a modern housing development impinges on the edge; continuing along, the boundary runs behind the Post Office past the Riccarton Arms Hotel, then crosses back over Lanark Road West to include the old smiddy and, then down the steep sides of the ridge to include Currie Brig, Currie Kirk and its environs and runs past the Manse to the west to then join up with the edge of the Riccarton Arms public house on Lanark Road West.

It is estimated that approximately 80-100 people live in the conservation area. The wider population of Currie Parish is now approaching 6,500.
**HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Origins of Currie as a Settlement*

The earliest records of a settlement in the Currie area are the stone cists (c. 500 B.C.) at Duncan’s Belt to the west and Blinkbonny, to the east, of the existing area known as Currie, and a Bronze Age razor (1800 B.C.) found at Kinleith Mill, to the east.

There is no definitive explanation of the meaning of the name ‘Currie’, but some suggestions that have been made are:

- ‘Coria’: name of a Roman camp.
- ‘Curragh’: from the Gaelic, meaning a boggy plain.
- ‘Curri’: an old family name.
- British (or Welsh) “Curri”: a hollow.

There is evidence of a Christian community in the area for more than a 1000 years. In 1018, the Archdeacons of Lothian established a base in the area. John Bartholomew’s Civic and Ecclesiastical maps of the 13th century do not show Currie, but the Index of Charters 1309-1413 records Currie as being ‘favourite hunting grounds’ for the Lords and Knights of Edinburgh Castle. A cottage is recorded on Riccarton Mains Road on Armstrong’s Map of the three Lothians in 1773.

The more formal historic settlement began to take shape around Currie Kirk and the main Lanark Road, which was the main route south and continues to be known as ‘The Lang Whang’. It is believed that the original Currie Brig dates from the 14th century and is significant in history because Dalziel of Binns passed over it in 1666 with his troops to cut off the Covenanters and bring them to battle at Rullion Green. Currie Kirk is reputed to have been built on the foundations of the ancient Church of Kinleith and dedicated to St. Kentigern in 1296. The Kirk in its present form dates from 1784, with later alterations in 1791 and the steeple, clock and vane, which were added in 1818.
Development around the Kirk comprised the manse, school and some dwellings which served the wider area of Currie Parish. Meanwhile in the hinterlands the development of farm buildings continued as agricultural needs changed.

The first railway line came in 1874, with the development of Currie station set next to The Water of Leith which had already developed as an industrial area. The paper mills were already thriving before the development of the railway. Kinleith Mill was established in 1792, and by 1865 was the fifth largest of its kind in Scotland with an output of 1,300 tons per year. By 1876, after the railway was constructed, it produced 2,000 tons per year. The railway answered the growing demands of the existing paper mills at Colinton, Juniper Green, Currie and Balerno. Their national importance contributed to the change in the character of the Water of Leith Valley around Currie from agricultural to industrial/suburban. Ribbon development continued along the roadside. The Riccarton Arms was originally the farmhouse for Wester Currie Farm. It appeared under the name ‘Riccarton Arms’ in 1876.

The building of the railway brought much change to the transportation links for Currie and the area around Lanark Road West began to become more developed with the erection of the Gibson Craig Memorial Hall of 1901 and the board school of 1903.

The period between 1921-1951 brought many changes including the building of council houses and the beginnings of private house building along Lanark Road West, thereby continuing the spread of ribbon development. Wider scale development began in the late 1960s/early 1970s when speculative house builders started to promote Currie as a pleasant commuting suburb of Edinburgh and house building took place to the north of Lanark Road West. Currie High School was constructed from 1960. The physical topography has ensured that the original historic core to the south of Lanark Road West including the Water of Leith has remained relatively unchanged.

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**Analysis and Essential Character**

**Spatial Pattern and Townscape**

Currie Conservation Area is defined by its architectural heritage which consists of a strong historic core of 19th century buildings centred around the Kirk and Brig; the farming hinterland to the south; the Water of Leith with its surrounding woodland and vegetation; and the linear development including public buildings along Lanark Road West. The mix of elements give Currie its unique sense of place and make it a very attractive settlement which has open views out to and in from the countryside beyond.

Currie is reached along Lanark Road West, which has a more or less continuous line of villa development from the inner suburbs of the city. Arrival in the Conservation Area from both east and west is signalled by the use of stone which occurs prior to the edge of the boundary, after more modern and rendered houses for much of the way. As it runs through the Conservation Area the road winds, almost like the river below it, along the top of a ridge.

Currie evolved as a small linear settlement set alongside Lanark Road West, the main north-south route, above Currie Brig. The surrounding land was countryside, with the Water of Leith and woodland providing a strong natural setting on either side of Currie Brig. The topography guided early development in the past to focus on Lanark Road West and the north, thus ensuring a very contained area around the heart of the original village.

The Conservation Area boundary to the north, in the main, runs behind those properties facing the road and the rest of the slope is covered by largely modern suburbia at times protruding through to the main road. The extension to the Conservation Area includes a mixture of two and single storey detached and terraced houses, mainly stone built villas, with dormers and front gardens. These gardens are an important resource in allowing space for trees and shrubs that continue the wooded character of the river valley below and Green Belt to penetrate the village. Their long gardens to the rear sloping down to the river may indicate the original feus and are similar in nature to the lang riggs, which are found in
medieval burghs. Near the core there appears to be the remains of a short wynd echoing this pattern, running down between the last two cottages on the south side, with three further small and disused cottages along it.

To the south, the building pattern has mostly been respected, apart from a few extensions and development in the rear gardens. On the north side, the pattern is much more disparate with the development of a garage and a dense flatted development.

The valley carved by the Water of Leith, and also the former railway line running beside it reinforces the linear development pattern. At the core of the village, many of the original houses built in terrace form come to the edge of the pavement and their orientation reflect the bends in the road. This indication of a once more enclosed core shown in historic plans has now been altered by modern development with the loss of the tollhouse and a cottage to the south side of the road. To the north, at the widened junction with Riccarton Mains Road, there are now views out to the Forth Bridges and Fife. To the south, the ground drops away vertically and is supported by a high retaining wall with railings following upgrading of the road over the years. This has now become a busy main route resulting in the core of the village becoming cut off from the area around Currie Kirk. This does, however, give a sudden sense of openness with wide views up to the hills. From here the broader pattern of the Conservation Area becomes evident.

Beneath the vista of the hills, attention is drawn down to Currie Kirk which is set in a contained landscape setting surrounded by stone walls which also encompasses the old schoolhouse and Currie school, built in 1832. At first, the churches location on the opposite bank of the river seems to set it apart from the congregation it serves, but a more positive image is gained after the river is crossed. The small
separation from the village, the sudden absence of traffic intrusion on the main road above and the sound of the river give an aura of peace around the church.

The church with its attractive pedimented front, clock and spire, all in a scale that seems appropriate to the village, forms part of an exceptional grouping of buildings. Flanking it on either side are the old schoolhouse and the original Currie School. In between, there is a path leading to the church door and on one side, a small lawn. These are separated by low stone walls and hedges, creating an off centre and informal approach. The School to the west is of a single storey terraced form with the westmost part a half bay width of its neighbour. They are orientated east-west, the cottage to the east is of a detached two storey form and is orientated north-south. Despite these apparent differences, the style appears of the same hand, their gables, skews, pedimented windows and access porches are all crow stepped and their tall slender square chimneys are faceted. This design approach has been adopted in all the other work carried out in building the manse, church extension and down to the small gardener’s store. The use of traditional materials and geometric forms in chimneys, crow steps, the church spire, even to the obelisk forms of memorials in the grave yard, create a relationship between the variety of ‘built’ elements.

Parts of the adjacent walled garden are in a poor state of repair, but the garden makes a very significant contribution to the overall grouping. This area lies within the Green Belt with fields and open countryside beyond. Seen together, the group is like a small religious settlement.

From the hill behind, there is a view back down to the church and village beyond. From this vantage point both the village form with its house frontages opposite and the road curve round the bend in the river give an image of the village embracing the church. The graveyard was extended further south earlier in the last century and is well defined with matching stone walls. To the east of the Manse is a conifer plantation.
From here also emerges a third aspect of the areas spatial pattern, that of Rosebank Farm. This consists of the main farmhouse, some of the older barns, a terrace of former farm workers cottages and a small duck pond. These are in the same vernacular style with traditional stone construction and slate or pantiled roofs. Whilst the rest of the farm is surrounded with fields, the cottages back on to the newer cemetery. Most of the areas development runs parallel to the contours but, the cottages facing the road up the hill provide additional visual interest as the exposed gables gradually reflect the slope.

At one time the infrastructure in the village and valley would have played a greater role. The Currie Brig is a considerable stone structure in its own right linking village to church, cottages and farms beyond. With the railway in use, boats along the river (although their use was limited because of the presence of weirs), more frequent pedestrian use and horse based transport over the bridge and the toll road, there would have been four different levels of movement. In the village a small circle of setts in the pavement mark the location of a well once used by travellers. Further along the main road are the remains of a drinking fountain now built into the front wall of 147 Lanark Road West.

Other notable features include an early milepost giving distances to Edinburgh and Lanark and a small standing stone which is believed to be part of Corslet Cross, which in the Middle Ages was a boundary marker for the Burlaw Court. This Court, according to a recent inscription set below the stone, used to ‘decide the dates between which things could be done to mutual advantage’. From a similar period there is St. Mungo’s Well in the river valley. Of more recent times there is the standing stone in front of the Post Office commemorating Dougal Haston, the mountaineer who died in 1977.
The combination of village, with more rural church grouping, farm, cottages and natural setting all in such a small space together and well tended make this a Conservation Area of considerable quality.

**Essential Character**

- **Typical linear development pattern along hilltop ridge, to some extent compromised by intrusive road and suburban development.**

- **Rural character of Green Belt still continued into main street by trees in front gardens where housing is set back.**

- **Continuous linear pattern along Lanark Road West reinforced by the river valley and former railway line below, with views out to and in from the Green Belt.**

- **Evidence of a lang rigg feu pattern with remains of a typical wynd/close and diminutive rural cottages.**

- **Vernacular development within conservation area, reflecting Currie’s history as a rural settlement.**

- **Village core with cottages right to the heel of the pavement and a small central space with open views to south and north.**

- **Exemplary historic Kirkyard grouping with geometric architectural elements linking buildings through time and set in a self contained landscape setting.**

- **Contrast of busy main road and short transition to peaceful riverside walkway.**

- **Traditional farm house and cottages in vernacular style and traditional materials.**
Significant Buildings

There are several buildings and groups of buildings, which contribute, significantly to the character of the area.

Currie Kirk and Environs

This is undoubtedly the most important building group within the conservation area, a fine enclave of 18th and early 19th century traditional buildings, set in a picturesque setting

- **Currie Kirk**: Currie Parish Church (St. Kentigerns): This fine church sits in the valley on the south side of Currie Brig, dating from 1784-85. This building has been built in a classical style with Gothic windows and central clock tower. It is listed category A and was built on the site of the former medieval church. The interior was re-cast by David Bryce in 1835. It forms the central building in a picturesque setting. The surrounding churchyard and cemetery form a dramatic setting with much of the original trees and layout surviving intact. There are many interesting original grave stones and a sundial. The cemetery extended beyond to the south into an adjoining plot of land, which dates from the 19th century in its form and layout.

- **Currie Manse**: Situated to the east of the Kirk, the Manse originally dates in part from 1799 with alterations by David Bryce in 1838. This building forms part of the courtyard setting with the Kirk and the original schoolhouse to the west. It is two-storey with crow-stepped gables and large diagonal paired chimneys. There is a large terraced garden area which forms the setting, has a rare beehole type structure in the garden wall near the NE corner.

- **Rosebery Cottages**: The old school, by William Burn 1828-29, 2-storey with crow-stepped gables. The schoolhouse was built opposite.

- **Former Schoolhouse**: An L-plan 2-storey building by David Bryce, 1830-31, this property, situated to the west, completes the grouping. Single-storey, stone-built with slated roof and crow-stepped gables.
• **Terraced Cottages to West:** A terrace of small stone-built cottages in vernacular form is situated to the west around a triangle of green.

• **Cast Iron Post Box:** There was originally, a post office amongst this grouping which no longer exists, however, the original posting box remains, set within the stone boundary wall.

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**Lanark Road West**

• **Gibson Craig Memorial Hall by J McIntyre Henry,** 1900-01, listed category C (S), a red sandstone building which sits on the building line on the on the main road. It has a commanding entrance with Gibbsian surrounds, ionic pilasters with an ionic Venetian window above set in a gabled frontage.

• **Farmhouse dating from the later 18th century.** A traditional 2-storey house with a single-storey addition to the west and a 2-storey addition to the northwest. This building is an early survival of the original settlement and sits on the roadside forward of the later established building line and has a prominent gable. It is listed category B.

• **Currie Post Office,** listed category C(S), dating from the mid 19th century is a single-storey L-plan building. It is stone-built with slate roof and moulded skewputts and a distinctive tall brick chimney. It is important because it defines the edge of the original building line at this point.

• **194 Lanark Road West:** A two-storey 18th century house, remodelled in the mid-19th century constructed of rubble stone with painted margins. This building forms part of the original roadside setting.
• **198, 200, & 202 Lanark Road West:** A row of three single-storey terraced farm cottages dated early/mid 19th century. They are raised above the roadway and are traditional in their construction and exhibit much vernacular charm. Constructed of stone with slate roofs and brick chimneys, some of which are neglected.

• **Old Smiddy & SSEB Substation:** A single-storey low range of buildings, originally used as the blacksmith’s workshop and smiddy, part of which, now houses an electricity sub-station. The original pantiles have been replaced with modern tiles on the front roof, but can still be seen to the rear, where there is a semi-circular outshot and piended roof.

• **165 Lanark Road West:** A pair of single-storey cottages with attics, circa 1815. They are distinguished by a Roman Doric pilastered doorpiece to the front. Built in stone with slate roofs.

• **209 Lanark Road West:** The former Town O’ Currie School originally dating from 1699, John Grinton and Robert Telford Wright and masons. Single-storey to road and 2-storey to south, harled over with French tile roof.

• **Riccarton Arms Public House:** 2 storey stone building with small single storey cottage attached to left. Originally, the farmhouse and one of the cottages for Wester Currie Farm, probably dating from the 19th century, it is much altered, with a large extension to the rear. It is painted white with black windows and door margins, and is set back, reflecting the original roadside setting.

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**The Water of Leith and its Setting Within The Currie Conservation Area**

This natural setting, unlike the built heritage in the Conservation Area, is linked and continuous. The management plan for the Water of Leith, prepared by The Water of Leith Action Group, sets out a vision for the river; “From hill springs through wooded slopes which keep the city at bay, to the sea, this unique landscape will be safeguarded and enhanced. Integrated management will ensure that river and valley fulfil their many and varied roles; as a sanctuary for people and wildlife, as an outdoor classroom for adults and children and much more.” The plan seeks to ensure continuity in approach.
- **Currie Brig:** In its current form, dating from the 18th century, this striking structure straddles the Water of Leith and provides the transition from Lanark Road West to the Currie Kirk and environs.

- **Saint Mungo’s Well:** This is an old water source near to the east of Currie Brig on the south bank of the Water of Leith, dedicated to Saint Mungo (also known as Saint Kentigern), the patron saint of Glasgow.

- **Bottle Kiln:** The remains of an old bottle kiln, circa 18th century are situated to the west of Currie Brig on the north bank of the river. It was used to dry grain for milling and is believed to be one of the few circular grain mills still surviving in Scotland.

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**Essential Character**

- **Key buildings within Kirkyard grouping by William Burn and David Bryce, important architects of their time and instrumental in the revival of the Scottish Baronial style in Scotland**

- **Currie Brig, previously, the meeting point of three levels of transport infrastructure- road, rail and pedestrian, crossing over the river valley**

- **The natural setting of The Water of Leith and its wooded dell and vegetation**

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**Activities and Uses**

The Conservation Area is mainly residential in character. There is a small mix of established and newly housed commercial uses. The pub, and Post Office are in traditional properties around the small green at the centre of the village whilst more recent development housing a garage with showroom, repair bay, workshop and forecourt vehicle display area is located close by taking up a wide arc of street frontage.
At the edges and just on the area’s boundaries are, to the west, Currie Primary School and library and to the east, a bank, the Gibson Craig Memorial Hall, with community hall behind, a local Council Office and a small sheltered housing development on the south side of the road. These are interspersed with houses until a small modern block of some six shop units which sits on the corner of Bryce Road. To the west of the historic core is the Currie Kirk with its associated buildings and Rosebank Farm.

Lanark Road West, the main road through the village, is one of the principal routes into Edinburgh from the west and serves the nearby town of Balerno. This road is also a main commuter route and traffic flows through the village appear constant and fairly heavy. This has had a considerable impact over time on the character of the village with road widening leading to the demolition of the old Toll House, a cottage to the north side as well as the masonic hall. Changes in road alignment over time, have made access to Currie Kirk less direct.

The Water of Leith walkway, kirkyard and lanes down in the valley are quiet and unhurried by comparison and are becoming an increasing focus for recreational and educational uses both by local residents and people from outwith the area. The Water of Leith Conservation Trust is a body which has been formed to protect the river and walkway and encourage educational use.

**Essential Character**

- The Conservation Area is mainly residential with a broader mix of uses at it’s edges such as the Post Office, public houses and community hall.

- A busy and unvarying through route which does not acknowledge the village character nor gives a sense any sense of progression from edge to core.

- Considerable recreational and educational uses in both the areas river side walkway and green belt location.
SUMMARY OF ELEMENTS WHICH DETRACT FROM CURRIE CONSERVATION AREA’S SPECIAL CHARACTER AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT

Strengths and Weaknesses

Currie Conservation Area exhibits a special character, which is enhanced by its strengths and compromised by its weaknesses. The strengths are many and lie in the nature of the topography of the area with its unique setting within the Water of Leith valley, the countryside to the hinterland beyond and the historic nature of Lanark Road West.

There are elements, which detract from the character of the conservation area, which have led to a disruption in the spatial pattern and loss of the sense of containment, which are key features in the area. These elements can be identified as follows:

• Inappropriate Development on Lanark Road West: Some recent housing development has failed to reinforce the character of the area. Also, the use of non traditional materials has had a negative impact in the conservation area. There have also been some poor alterations to existing traditional buildings such as unsympathetically designed dormers, porches and conservatories.

• Car-parking in Front Gardens on Lanark Road West: There is a significant loss of front garden ground to hard standing, mainly for parking purposes in the traditional villas.

• Safety Barrier to Lanark Road West: A continuous safety barrier has been erected on the south part of Lanark Road West where Currie Brig meets the main road. The road has been designed to take high levels of traffic and the conservation area would benefit from measures to reduce traffic speed.

• Built Elements of Heritage, Which Have Been Neglected: There are certain elements of Currie’s heritage, which have been neglected and are in need of some attention. St. Mungo’s Well set within the southbank of the Water of Leith has lost its brass plaque depicting its origins and the surrounding stone slabs are loose. Further alongside the Water of Leith, on the south bank, there is some machinery from the original weir i.e. sluice gate and lade, and the odd relic from the original railway line, which are gently decaying. The disused kiln on the north west side of Currie Brig which is believed to be the remnants of a circular grain mill, shows signs of decay, which could lead to instability in the future. Currie Brig itself shows slight signs of wear. An old cast-iron drinking fountain has been identified on Lanark Road West outside the Post Office, which has rusted and is set into a stone boundary wall. A cast-iron directional road sign still survives on Lanark Road West.
**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Statutory Policies Relating to Currie**

The Currie Balerno Local Plan, Written Statement, June 1983, identifies the original boundaries of Currie Conservation Area, which were much more tightly defined around a smaller area. It highlights the area immediately to the south of Currie Kirk containing the cemetery and the adjacent farm cottages in the Kirkgate as forming an important part of the setting of the historic village. It also states that the Council will consider the desirability of including these areas in the designated conservation area. These areas are subject to Countryside and Greenbelt policies and are situated in an Area of Great Landscape Value.

Within the Countryside policy area the objective of the plan is to protect countryside from development and maintain its rural character. This places a general presumption against any development that is not related to agriculture and outdoor recreation. Consequently, in the case of the wider environs around Currie Conservation Area, to the south, the emphasis is on ensuring that new development does not alter the rural character of this group of properties.

The original designation of the Edinburgh Green Belt was in 1957, with the following objectives:

- To limit the further expansion of the City
- To prevent the merging of built-up areas
- To preserve and enhance the landscape setting of the Capital, and
- To prevent the loss of agricultural land to development

The designation, ‘Area of Great Landscape Value’ has no statutory significance, but local authorities were encouraged to designate them by the Scottish Office, to highlight the need for careful planning in their vicinity. Within these areas there are landscape qualities which should be safeguarded and recreational and wildlife interests promoted.

The Council is in the process of replacing the Currie Balerno Local Plan with the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan. The finalised version of the Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan, identifies parts of Currie Conservation Area as being situated within designated areas of Green Belt, Site of Interest for Nature Conservation and Guest House Area.
The Local Plan contains advice on:

- The classes of permitted development within the conservation area;
- The preservation of enhancement of a conservation area where development is proposed;
- The protection of listed buildings;
- The protection of open space;
- Development within Edinburgh’s Green Belt;
- Design and amenity criteria for development within Edinburgh’s Green Belt.

**Implications of Conservation Area Status**

Designation as a conservation area has the following implications:

- Permitted development rights under the General Development Order are restricted. Planning permission is, therefore, required for stonecleaning, external painting, roof alterations and the formation of hard surfaces. The area of extensions to dwelling houses, which may be erected without consent, is also restricted to 16m² and there is additional control over satellite dishes.

- Under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992, the planning authority can seek approval of the Scottish Executive for Directions that restrict permitted development rights. The Directions effectively control the proliferation of relatively minor alterations to buildings in conservation areas that can cumulatively lead to erosion of character and appearance. Development is not precluded, but such alterations will require planning permission and special attention will be paid to the potential effect of proposals. Currie Conservation Area is currently covered by an Article 4 Direction Order, for the following range of permitted development classes:

  1. enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwelling house
  3. provision or alteration of buildings or enclosures within the curtilage of a dwelling house
  6. installation, alteration or replacement of satellite antennae
  7. creation of means of
  18. agricultural works
Special attention must be paid to the character and appearance of the conservation area when planning controls are being exercised. Most applications for planning permission for alterations will, therefore, be advertised for public comment and any views expressed must be taken into account when making a decision on the application.

Buildings, which are not statutorily listed, can normally be demolished without approval under the Planning Regulations. Within conservation areas the demolition of unlisted buildings requires conservation area consent.

Proposals for work on trees must be notified in writing to the Council, six weeks in advance of commencing works.

Alterations to windows are controlled in terms of the Council’s policy.

Grants may be available towards the repair or restoration of historic buildings

**Supplementary Guidelines**

The Council also produces supplementary planning guidance on a range of development control issues. These are contained within the Development Management Handbook.

**Protection of Trees**

Trees within conservation areas are covered by the Town and Country (Scotland) Act 1972, as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997. The Act applies to the uprooting, felling or lopping of a tree having a diameter exceeding 75mm at a point 1.5m above ground level, and concerns the lopping of trees as much as removal. The planning authority must be given six week’s notice of the intention to uproot, fell or lop trees. Failure to give notice renders the person liable to the same penalties as for contravention of a TPO.
REFERENCES

Our District
John Tweedie & Cyril Jones - published by Currie District Council 1975

Currie in Old Picture Postcards
John Tweedie - published by European Library-Zaltbommel/Netherlands, 1973

Various press cuttings from the Edinburgh Room Archives of
The Central Library

Historic Maps:

Gelatly’s Map 1834
Ordnance Survey Plan 1852
Ordnance Survey Plan 1893
You can get this document on tape, in Braille, **large print** and various computer formats if you ask us. Please contact Interpretation and Translation Service (ITS) on 0131 242 8181 and quote reference number 02246/5. ITS can also give information on community language translations. You can get more copies of this document by calling City Development enquiries on 0131 529 3550.

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Produced by the City Development Department: Planning & Strategy

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This document contains Currie area conservation plans and information on what determines the historical and architectural features of the area, and what needs to be protected. If you need to translate this document, you can contact Interpretation and Translation Service (ITS) on 0131 242 8181 and quote reference 02246/5. ITS can also provide information on community language translations. You can get more copies of this document by calling City Development enquiries on 0131 529 3550.

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