

APPENDIX VII

POINTS OF VIEW FROM THE CONSERVATION EXHIBITION

The great majority of those who answered a short questionnaire at the Exhibition were in favour of The Grange being designated as a Conservation Area. They did so by means of a Yes/No answer. It should be stated that those who chose to fill in the questionnaire were self-selected, and therefore the answers have no statistical significance.

Some people added their own points of view on the back of the questionnaire and these are reproduced here, including the only one who was not in favour of Conservation.

"I would not be in favour of The Grange becoming a large museum. I would favour a small area, say one street, being preserved unchanged and the rest of the area developed to meet the needs of the future."

There were, however, many other people who expressed wholehearted support in favour of Conservation in The Grange.

"The Grange is too good to lose, and I hereby offer my services at the barricades should such a course become needful."

"I would be prepared to help in any way to preserve The Grange."

Some people pointed out what they particularly like in The Grange.

"The famous contrast between the rock and Princes Street is consummated by that between aloof and bracing north Edinburgh and warmly unfolding south Edinburgh, the richest part of the latter being the incomparable ethereal Grange area, through which I regularly walk for sheer pleasure and general uplift."

"One of the main reasons that Edinburgh is a beautiful city is the amount of greenery, parks and trees it has. We do not want to live in a concrete world, so do not push natural features out of this lovely city."

Others were worried about the trees.

"Many of the mature trees featured in the Exhibition (rightly) must be approaching old age and consequent death. What plans are there to encourage replacement planting (by the G.A., by the District Council?)."

On the same lines another person wrote:

"All or at least as many of the mature trees as possible should be retained, and semi-mature hardwoods planted to replace them in time."

The walls of The Grange, also greatly appreciated, cause concern for their possible loss.

"The area's unique feature of large gardens bounded by high stone walls. Any development within the bounds of these walls should not spill out. With the need for adequate sight lines at accesses, etc., there is a tendency to cut back the old walls at these points. This causes large unsightly gaps in the walled streetscape and destroys the feeling of enclosure within the old walls."

Redevelopment at higher densities is regretted or feared.

"I see on the map of your leaflet that the land behind my house in Mortonhall Road is called 'Playing Fields'. Alas, it now has several drearily monotonous blocks of flats, three storeys high, built by Miller Homes, in South Oswald Road. Conservation is needed in The Grange."

"'Flats' mean more tenants — more garages — less garden and less trees, and probably fewer walls."

A proliferation of extensions to existing houses is dreaded.

"Extensions to existing houses, which are not in keeping with the character of the area, would be an eyesore to neighbour's views from their windows. Should be forbidden — or modifications suggested."

Ideas are put forward in case of development in garden space.

"The large old houses should be retained as a nucleus to any development within their former grounds. This development to be kept low."

Parking is bothersome in some areas.

"I wonder if anything can be done about the traffic parked outside my frontage . . .?" (Grange Road).

The increase in traffic causes concern, especially the through traffic.

"The whole management of traffic within the area to be reconsidered; the need to stop traffic filtering through smaller streets to avoid main junctions should be looked at urgently."

The danger of an increase in the volume of traffic due to change of use from residential to institutional or commercial uses is pointed out.

"No development to be allowed which would markedly increase the volume of traffic, e.g. office or commercial development. This is especially important with regard to commercial, which would require large vehicles to service it."

The residential character and quality should be protected through appropriate regulations.

"The only development to be of domestic character and be of a standard to complement the existing stone houses. All materials to be chosen with this point in mind."

Other environmental nuisances were pointed out on the periphery of the Study Area.

"An example of the 'destruction' of a residential street is Clinton Road (tho' I know it is not in our Grange area). Since the Electricity Board bought up all the property on the south side of that street, an enormous Telecommunications Block has been built. The local residents objected; it had no effect."

Some comments were offered on the boundaries of a Conservation Area.

"What's wrong with Causewayside and Ratcliffe Terrace – the outline shows an odd inverted bump."

In fact the Causewayside feus have not been part of The Grange since the eighteenth century.

Others suggested that the proposed boundaries should be tightened up.

"If it would make it more possible to have Grange made a Conservation Area, I suggest the boundaries could be narrowed."

A Grange Walk in the spring was proposed.

"How about a "Grange Walk" one Sunday afternoon in the spring, led by an authority on the area?"

This idea was in fact taken up by The Grange Association, and a Grange Walk was successfully carried out in June 1981.

All of the remaining comments were congratulations, good wishes, or requests to join The Grange Association.

"I wish you every success." "I hope you are successful in preserving this beautiful area, keep up the good work." "Excellent – most worthwhile exhibition!"

APPENDIX VIII

THE GRIFFINS, WYVERNS AND STONES FROM ST. ROQUE'S CHAPEL

When Grange House was demolished in 1936, two of the more substantial objects to survive were a pair of ornamented stone pillars, surmounted by finely sculpted heraldic beasts. These interesting relics stand today on the north side of Grange Loan, between Lauder Road and Lovers' Loan, and are popularly referred to as "the Lauder Griffins": the name is inspired by the fact that the mythical griffin appears in the coat-of-arms of the ancient Lauder family. For many who pass by, these heraldic beasts on their pedestals are an impressive memento, an enduring fragment of a society and way of life in the neighbourhood now gone for ever.

These heraldic beasts have been knocked about a bit by time, but enough remains to show clearly that they are, in fact, not griffins at all but wyverns. Griffins had the forepart of an eagle, with beaks, wings and forelegs bearing claws, and the hindquarters of a lion. Wyverns, on the other hand, were declared to have the head of a dragon, issuing fire, wings, and the barbed tail of a serpent (as illustrated on the front cover of this report). The carvings in Grange Loan have suffered damage to the wings, tails, and the flames from their mouths, but they are clearly wyverns. A few years ago the wyvern at Lovers' Loan fell off its plinth: a public-spirited local resident stored the pieces, and The Grange Association raised the necessary funds to have it repaired and restored to its pedestal in 1981.

Where did these ornaments stand in the days of Grange House, and what was their connection with the Dick Lauders? A photograph in Jane Stewart Smith's book, "The Grange of St. Giles" (p. 88) shows that, at least at one time, the wyverns and their distinctive pillars were situated within the garden of Grange House. The photograph suggests that at that time they were ornamenting a sort of arbour, or rustic retreat of some kind. A second photograph depicts the Griffin gateway, which was situated to the north of the mansion, astride the driveway to the main entrance.

There is at the present time a pair of griffin sculptures in the front garden of a house in Dick Place, but it is not known if these are a remnant of the Griffin gateway.

It would be interesting to know exactly which heraldic beasts were touched by Sir Walter Scott on a visit to Grange House as a boy. He wanted to discover whether the "rampant griffins' outstretched tongues were veritable paint or veritable flame."

The south entrance to the grounds, from Grange Loan, had an arched gateway bearing a coat-of-arms, and this is shown in a photograph in Charles J. Smith's "Historic South Edinburgh" (p. 38).

The presence of the wyverns in The Grange probably derives from the Dick Lauders' connection through marriage with the Seton family. Hugh, 2nd Earl of Eglinton, had married in 1530 Mariota Seton, Mistress of Borthwick, and their descendant, Margaret, married in 1582 Robert, Baron Seton, 1st Earl of Winton.

George, Lord Seton owned the first baronial Castle of Winton, near Pencaitland, and was connected by marriage to the Lauder family. Before 1707, the parish church was the ancient burial place of the Lauders of Fountainhall, which lies in the parish of Pencaitland.

In 1696, Sir John Lauder, 3rd Baronet of Fountainhall, had married Margaret Seton, daughter of Sir Alexander Seton of Pitmedden, Baronet (a Senator of the College of Justice with the title of Lord Pitmedden). Their second son, Andrew, 5th Baronet, married Isobel Dick, daughter of the 3rd Baron of Grange, and she in turn became heiress of The Grange. But Isobel Dick's mother was