

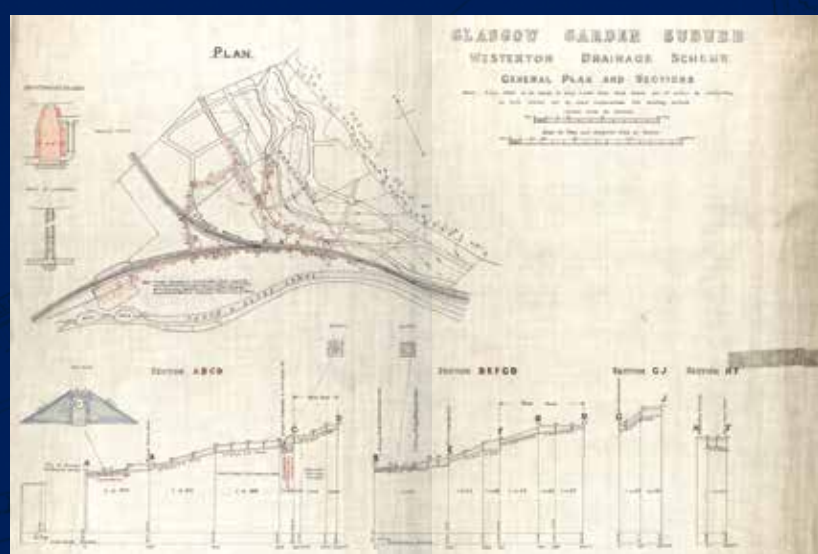
# A GARDEN SUBURB FOR GLASGOW

In 1910 a lecture given by Manchester Councillor, T R Marr inspired a group of prominent Glasgow businessmen to build a garden suburb for Glasgow. A public meeting was held in early 1911 and local interest in the plan was strong, so in 1912 the Glasgow Garden Suburb Tenants Ltd was officially registered. This was to be the first garden suburb built in Scotland. The Committee of Management included Sir John Stirling Maxwell, and other influential Glasgow men, such as Sir Samuel Chisholm, and Mr M Boyd Auld.



Sir John Stirling Maxwell, 10th Baronet of Pollok (1866-1956), one of the founders of Glasgow Garden Suburb Tenants Ltd.

The suburb was to be a co-partnership; each tenant purchased five shares at a value of £10 each - paid in installments if they could not afford to pay the £50 at once - for which they would receive a small dividend, held by the company on their behalf. They would also pay a small rent, and rent and dividends would pay for repairs. When the tenant left the suburb they could either retain the investment, or take the capital. As tenants had a financial stake in the company, it was in their interest to pay their rent regularly and maintain their property so as to keep down the cost of repairs.



Plan of Westerton c 1913, setting out the drainage scheme and showing the proximity of the site to the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Milngavie railway junction. (EDLC Archives GD315/5/1/2)



Plan showing the land transferred to Glasgow Garden Suburb Tenants Ltd by Garscube Estate c 1913. (EDLC Archives GD315/5/1/3)

It was important that the Garden Suburb be located in an attractive rural setting with good transport links. The Committee of Management considered three possible locations: Cathcart, Giffnock and Garscube. The proposals for Cathcart fell through, Giffnock did not have a satisfactory train service, and so the Committee settled on Garscube after negotiations with the North British Railway Company, who agreed to construct a station at the site.

The suburb was built largely on what was South Westerton Farm; the farm stood where the library is today. All that remains of it now is the old well on Maxwell Avenue, opposite the Hall. For twenty years the suburb stood very much on its own, surrounded by open countryside.



Left: An early view of Westerton railway station.



Below: Photograph taken pre-1913 of part of Canniesburn Golf course showing the ruins of Mid-Westerton Farm. The figure in front of the ruin is a golfer.

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