



Mavisbank is a beautiful but roofless ruin in a perilous state. Its once handsome landscape is landlocked and hidden but the beauty, history and international significance of this important site make it worth fighting for. The Mavisbank Trust, created in 2002, continues to garner support for this jewel of Midlothian.

Mavisbank was built in the 1720s and is architecturally renowned as Scotland's most important small country house. Sited a few miles south of Edinburgh, it was commissioned by Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, a leading figure of the Scottish Enlightenment and designed by him with William Adam, the foremost architect of early eighteenth century Scotland.

Recent Developments

Essential work unearths new discoveries

Historic Scotland's Monument Conservation Unit has been carrying out vital work to protect Mavisbank's landscape and investigate issues relating to the site.

This crucial work has led to some exciting new discoveries, such as the long-forgotten paths linking Mavisbank House to the ancient earthworks on the hill behind. These paths were revealed as part of a program to control invasive rhododendrons on site.



Rhododendron clearance has opened up exciting new views of the House and Policies.

Important Funding Developments

Recent grants have allowed the Mavisbank Trust to produce a business plan and initiate public consultations leading to the development of an unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund bid in early 2013. The Trust would like to acknowledge with gratitude the kind assistance of the Architectural Heritage Fund, The Pilgrims Trust, The Clark Trust, Oppenheimer Foundation and Mr A Hammond Chambers and all who have donated through our Just Giving page.

Our Work Today

The Trust is completing £100,000 of work at Mavisbank this summer, funded by Tyne & Esk Leader, Scottish Natural Heritage and Midlothian Council. This has enabled a clearer understanding, through expert surveys, of the hydrology, ecology and landscape as well as an updated structural survey of the house.



New gate on the riverside path.

Historic Pathway Created

Work included a new path which provides the first recognised access to the Mavisbank Policies in over 40 years. This remarkable development links the grounds of Mavisbank to the restored riverside North Esk Way and has created an easy and accessible route for local residents, community groups and visitors to explore Mavisbank's grounds. The path was formally

opened by Cllr Owen Thompson, Leader of Midlothian Council at a ceremony bringing together Trustees, community groups, funding partners and local residents to share and celebrate this significant achievement.



Next Steps

A New Road

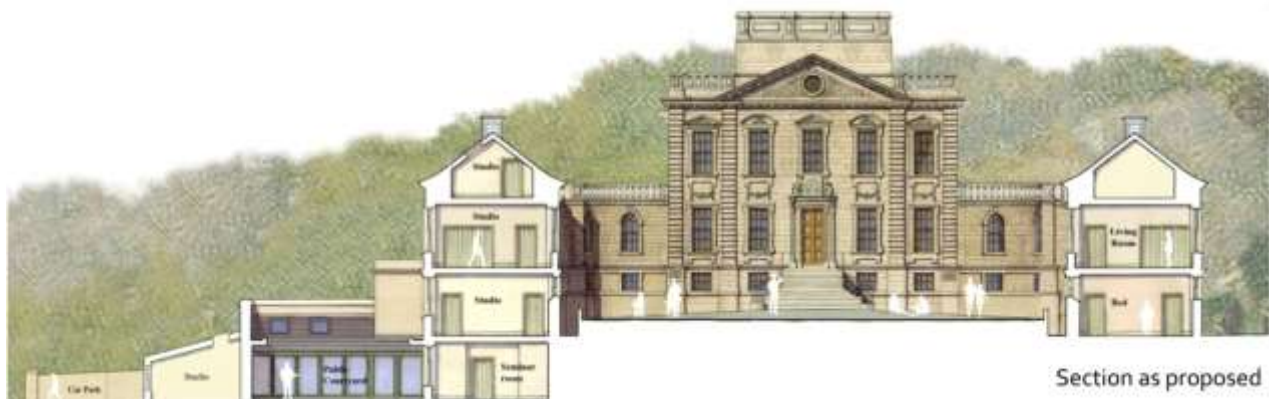
No conservation will be possible unless vehicular access to Mavisbank is created – the site is currently landlocked. A planning application for a new entrance, car park and road was submitted to the Council in late June but we need to raise **£60,000** before work can commence. This will be a major step forward and, with careful regard for ecological and landscape concerns, it will provide an essential route for public access and remove one of the major barriers to conservation of the parkland and house.

Strength in Partnership

The Trust continues to work with Historic Scotland, Midlothian Council and Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust to secure funding for a more substantial project to create a viable future for Mavisbank. A revised bid will be submitted to HLF in late 2014.

Mavisbank can offer, as it did to John Clerk, a place of respite and seclusion; space to think creatively, explore passions for nature, art and heritage and benefit from doing so. By providing audiences with a menu of opportunities for such activity and training, Mavisbank can support vulnerable and under-privileged groups in exploring their heritage and generate a focal point in an ex-industrial area where it can play a significant community regeneration role.

This project will resolve ownership of and conserve the house. The structure of the designed landscape will be restored, with respect to the biodiversity which has come to flourish here. Sensitive access will be recreated forming an accessible green space. Income will be generated through letting space in the building and events and activities in the parkland. A major fundraising campaign will be launched to support the project.





The Mavisbank Trust is seeking funding support to save this beautiful and important house and its landscape in a way which respects its important built and natural heritage and allows people to enjoy and learn from it. We invite you to join us.

The Mavisbank Trust
Swanston Steading
109/11 Swanston Road
Edinburgh EH10 7DS

Scottish Company No. SC237311
Scottish Charity No. SC034064

mavisbank.info@gmail.co.uk
www.mavisbank.org.uk

 Find us on Facebook

 Follow us on Twitter