# The Abbotsford Trust 250th Anniversary Appeal

## Help us restore the Pavilion and return the heart to the centre of Scott's Gardens

As part of the Sir Walter Scott 250th anniversary celebrations, we want to bring a fresh lease of life to the historic Pavilion and restore one of Abbotsford's most important and historically significant buildings to its former glory.

To restore the Pavilion and its adjacent integral structures will cost in the region of £350,000. The Abbotsford Trust has the chance to build on the exceptional gift of £250,000 from a private donor to undertake a once in a lifetime restoration project on the Pavilion at Abbotsford. The work is part of an on-going programme of repairs and conservation to the buildings at Abbotsford.

## Can you help us raise the further £100,000 we need to restore Sir Walter Scott's Pavilion to its former glory?

## The Pavilion:

Based within Abbotsford's Regency Gardens, the Pavilion was designed by Sir Walter Scott and built by John Smith of Darnick (circa 1824-25) as part of Abbotsford's kitchen/fruit garden. The Pavilion is a *Category A* listed building of national interest and one of very few remaining examples of this style to remain. The adjacent Kitchen Garden Wall, and the Furnace House, are included in our restoration plans.

The Pavilion was one of the last Scott-era structures built at Abbotsford. It was built in the context of other extensive works which included re-building and extending the walled gardens and building other structures for cultivation (melon, pineapple and forcing house, with furnace houses). It cost £210 / 5s / 5d.

The Pavilion looks southwest down the double borders of the gardens towards the north east façade of the House. It is possible to see how the Pavilion's medieval castle-like design relates to the house itself. The Pavilion appears to be inspired by medieval campaigning tents. It is similar to a rare example of a rectangular tent depicted in the manuscript for Froissart's *One Hundred Years War* depicting the Siege of Duras (above right).

Scott reviewed a new translation by Johnes of this work in 1805, with engravings of the siege. He also had access to a Froissart manuscript owned by the Earl of Ancrum, and it has long been observed that Duras's façade, its moat and flag tower also have some resemblance to Abbotsford.

*The picture on the left shows Dame Jean and Patricia Maxwell-Scott (and their dogs) outside the Pavilion on a sunny day in the 1960s.*

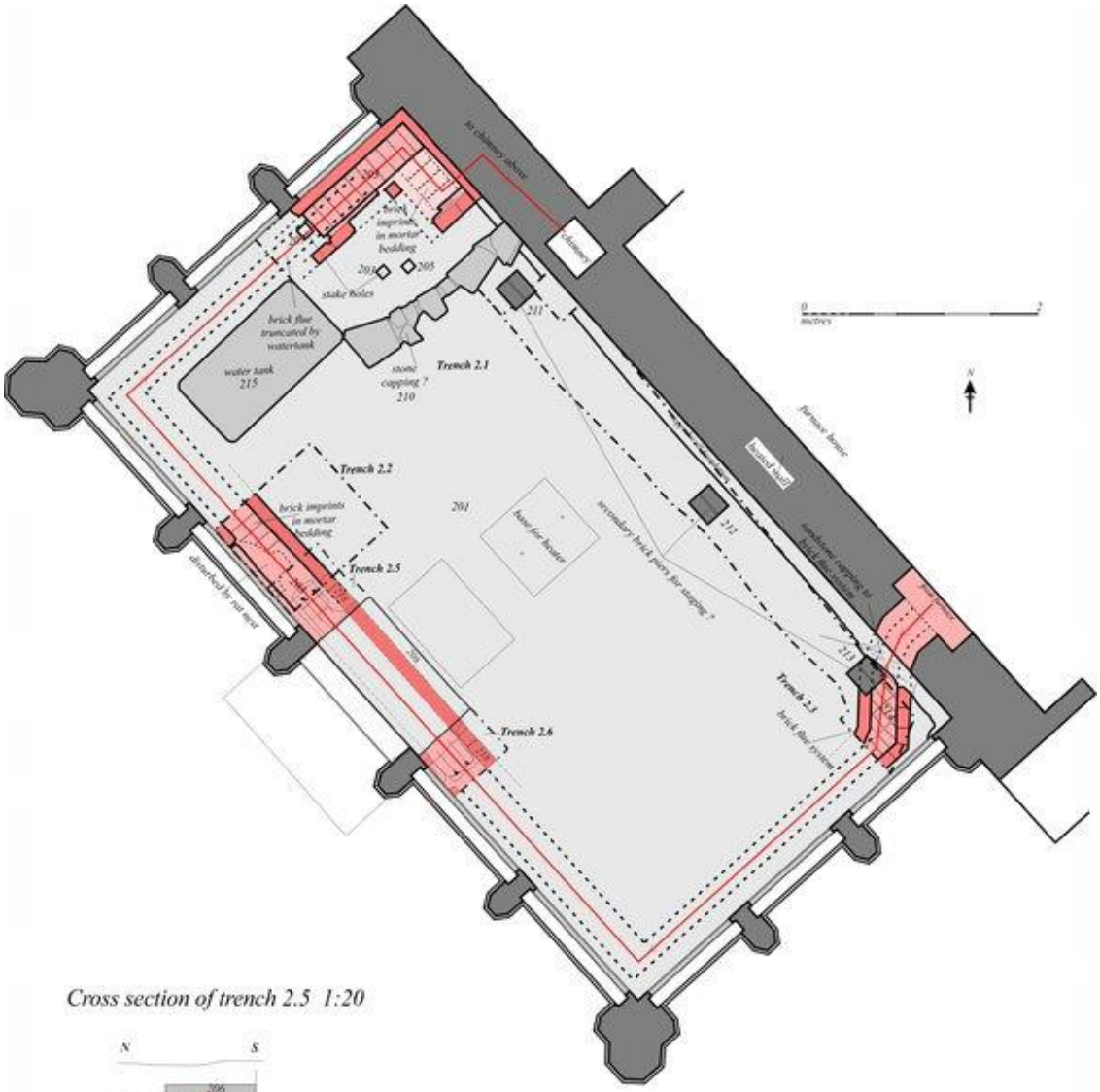
## The Furnace House

The Pavilion is located against a heated wall. In the lean-to roofed building on the other side of the wall from the Pavilion is the furnace house (above). The boiler originally sent warm air through channels and ducts within the brick wall for its full length. This created the right heat levels to protect tender plants growing against this wall.

## What do we need to do?

The Pavilion is sadly in poor condition. Some original features have been lost and we have scant information about its original construction, past uses, or the plants that were once housed in it. Much of the damage to the building is due to the lack of a gutter along the back of the Pavilion roof. During the restoration work, guttering will be

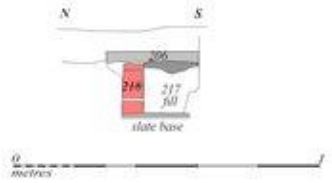
introduced to safely distribute rainwater to either end so that the timber under the gutter will not any longer be vulnerable to rot.



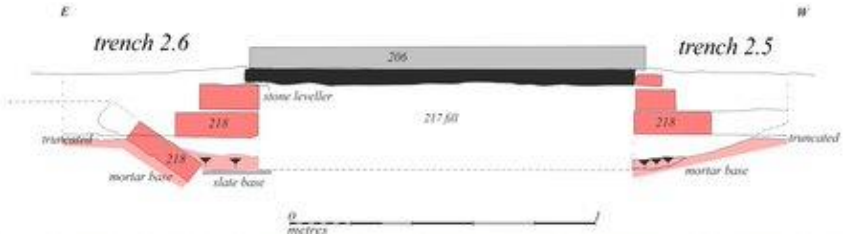

The Pavilion roof needs to be taken down and re-built because there is timber decay in the joist ends. The same timbers will be repaired and re-used whenever possible, and any glass will be reinstated in the same positions.

Repairs to the Pavilion's glazing are also needed. There is already a mix of original and replacement glass in the timber frames of the windows following repairs at a much earlier date, and this mix will be retained because the character of the replacement glass does not detract from the aesthetic value of the building.

*Cross section of trench 2.5 1:20*




*Section through flue system at entrance 1:20*

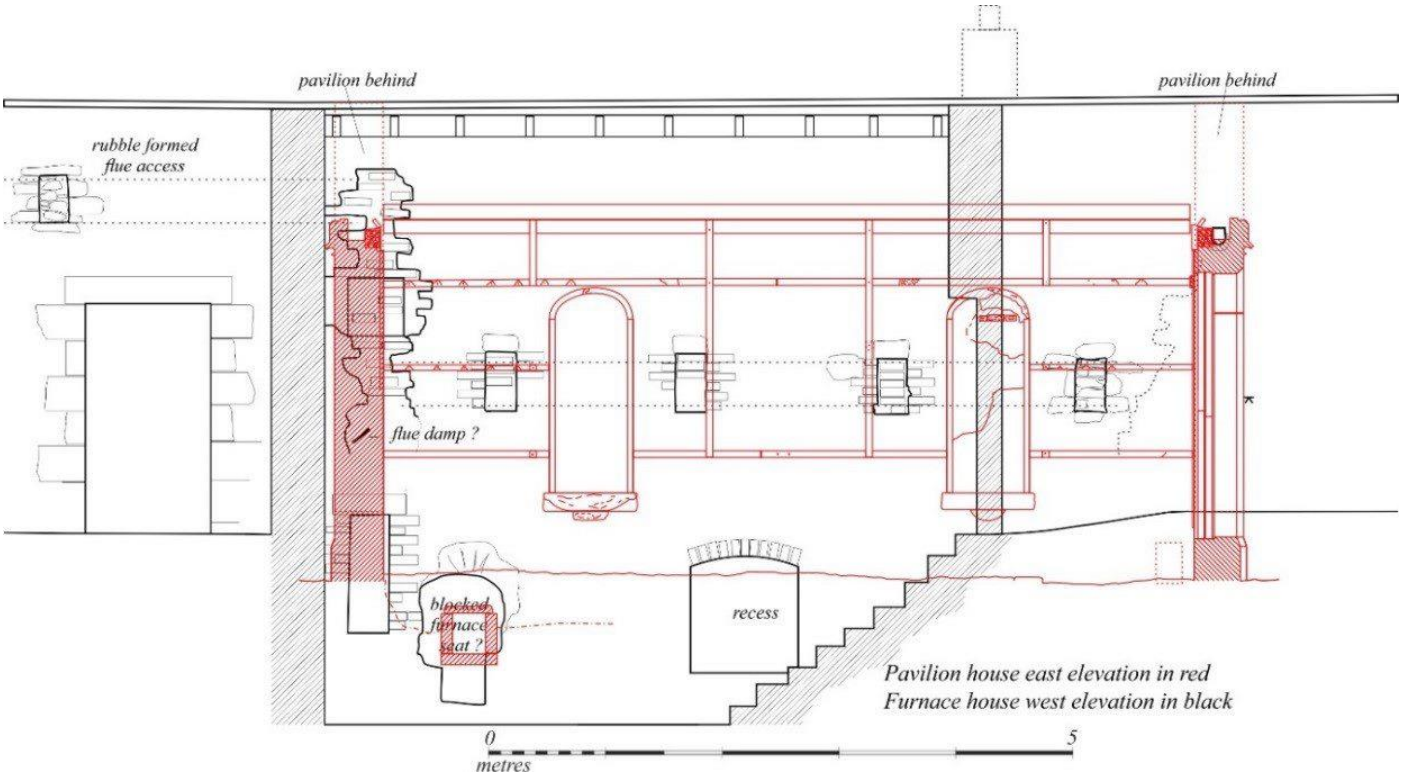



The structure of the Pavilion itself is made from very long and large stones. In some places these stones are delaminating where the surface is breaking away. Fortunately, the repair work will not involve replacing the stone in most cases. Instead, the stone will be conserved by a specialist stone conservator to ensure that as much as possible of the original stone stays in place. Where possible, the stone will be fixed back together, and the cracks filled with resins.

Plain sandstone shield motifs were originally morticed above each pier. These shields, which once lined the outer walls of the Pavilion, will be reinstated to their original positions on the exterior. One example survives together with the sockets for the others.

The joinery will be painted its original colour as determined by microscope section paint analysis. It is unlikely to be white, which was a colour which became popular only in the second quarter of the 20th century.

The Furnace House roof will be repaired, and a stable door fitted so that the upper part can be left open. In time, we plan that visitors will be able to look into the restored Furnace House and see a presentation or listen to a soundscape which explains the functions of the room, the boiler, the heated wall and the garden.



## Improving Access

The internal floors of the Pavilion will be lowered slightly, meaning that there will be less of a step at the front door. This step will be an identifiable addition to the original steps so that the visitor is entirely aware of what parts of the structure are original and which parts are an addition intended to assist with access. A short ramp will be provided to allow people with restricted mobility to access the building.

## Working with expert advice

As archaeological investigation and specialist advice were essential to help our understanding of the Pavilion's historical development and to guide the restoration. We have established a *Pavilion Advisory Panel,* which is working closely with specialist architects Simpson Brown and Addyman Archaeology to develop the full scheme of work to save and restore these magnificent structures.

## What will the restored Pavilion be used for?

The aim of the Pavilion restoration project is to revitalise the Pavilion to once again be at the heart of the Gardens as Scott intended. In Scott's day, the Pavilion was a heated outdoor room and was likely to have displayed flowering rare and exotic plants seasonally. But, as Scott mentions in his *Journal*, the Pavilion was also intended as a retreat from which to sit and enjoy views of the garden in a warm and sheltered environment.

We intend to restore some parts of the interior to its appearance as indicated by archaeological research, and reinstate plants, but to also use it as a feature to visit within the gardens. The reinstatement of the floor will help to explain the heating system. The work is part of an on-going programme of repairs and conservation to the buildings at Abbotsford.

## The restored pavilion will offer visitors:

- A place for creative practice, whether writing, sketching, painting, meditating or composing
- Shelter from the elements and a chance to rest and reflect
- A flexible indoor/outdoor space for small groups to gather for learning or engagement activities
- The opportunity to listen to excerpts from Scott's poetry and fiction centred on gardens and a love of plants
- An illuminated and beautiful setting and focal point for events in the garden spaces, particularly out of hours
- A small library of information about the garden and its highlights
- An opportunity to revel in the Georgian love of light, something less obvious in some interiors of the house

Internally, we plan to fill the Pavilion with historically appropriate plants that are exotics or too tender to be cultivated outside, such as oleanders (above right), lily of the valley and hibiscus (left), and fruits such as peaches, figs and vines.

The planting will communicate something of the contemporary context for Scott's creation of Abbotsford, influenced as he was by the thrill of the age of exploration, discovery, empire, and plant collecting.

## The age of horticultural experimentation

In Scott's day, growing fruit and vegetables at Abbotsford was particularly important during the time that the family were entertaining. But there's no doubt that there was a gentlemanly competitive edge to these endeavours too. Early in the 19th Century, *The Caledonian Horticultural Society* introduced a range of competitions, exhibitions and other incentives to encourage experimentation with better methods of production and ways of overcoming long-standing gardening problems. Fruits, vegetables and flowers all, the hunt was on for methods to improve yield, strengthen growth, reduce disease, and perhaps most pertinently to enthusiasts like Scott with his heated Pavilion, to raise tender or exotic plants in Scotland's cool, wet climate. Gold and silver medals, cash prizes, and all manner of engraved silver items - including spoons, ladles, sugar tongs and umbrellas - were among the rewards on offer to the cutting-edge horticulturalists of the day for raising plants as diverse as peaches, nectarines, cucumbers, and melons.

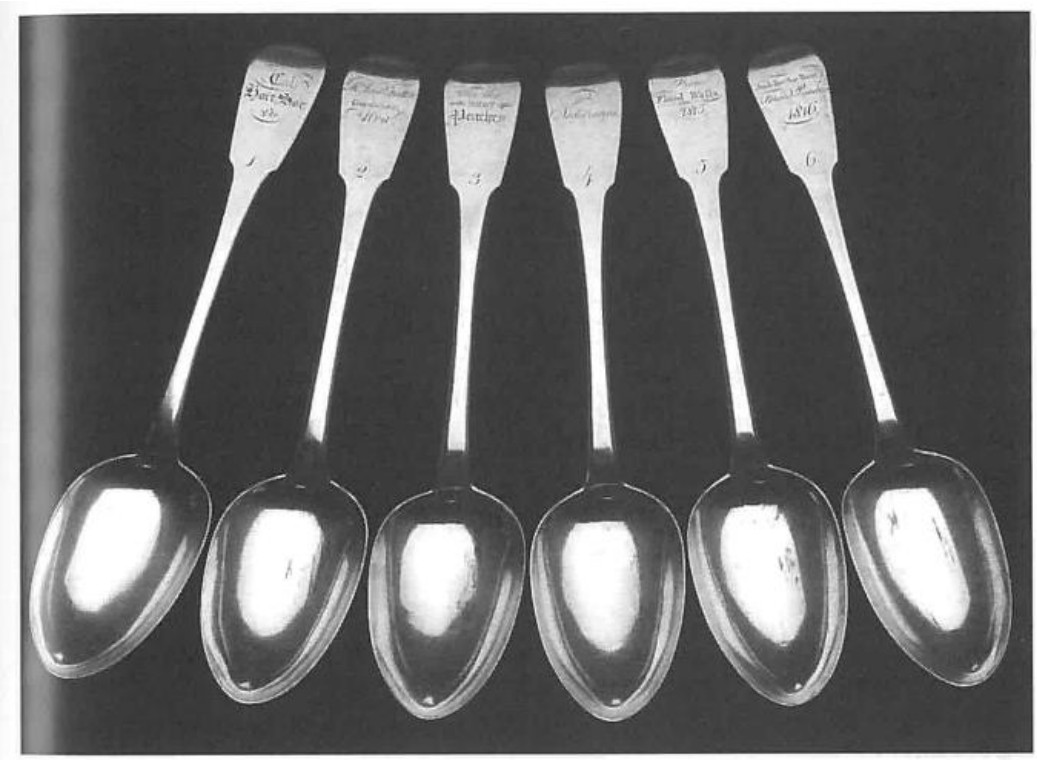


Fig. 5 - Set of six silver tablespoons, inscribed 1815 & 1816, awarded by the Caley to David Trotter gardener to J. Johnstone Esq. of Alva House. On spoon 5 note 'Fluid Walls' instead of Flued Walls.

(Reproduced courtesy of the Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland).

*Left: Engraved tablespoons awarded to David Trotter in 1815 and 1816 as a prize for his horticultural endeavours. In the collection of the National Museums of Scotland*

## Recognising your support

Whether borne out of personal intrigue or serious academic endeavour, there is no doubt that the discoveries made by these horticultural pioneers continue to benefit us today.

In the spirit of Sir Walter Scott's eternal curiosity about *what is possible* and reflecting the competitive, experimental ethos of his day, we will recognise every donation of £2,500 or more to our Pavilion restoration appeal with a specially engraved 250th anniversary spoon.

Engraved with a short dedication of your choice, these unique spoons will be put on permanent display in the Visitor Centre at Abbotsford to commemorate the restoration of the Pavilion at the heart of Scott's Garden in his 250th anniversary year.

# The Abbotsford Trust 250th Anniversary Appeal

We would very much appreciate your support towards the Pavilion restoration project. As an independent charity, we receive no core Government funding and rely on the financial support of our friends, neighbours and visitors to care for Abbotsford and safeguard Sir Walter Scott's legacy, as well as to provide learning opportunities for people of all ages and abilities in our local community and to support our award-winning volunteer programme.

## Enter the Prize Draw to support the Pavilion restoration:

- Complete the tear off stubs with at least one form of contact. If buying a book, you only need to complete the first stub in each book of tickets and we will do the rest in the office.
- Return your Prize Draw ticket stubs and payment to Abbotsford by **30th November 2021**. Please make cheques payable to The Abbotsford Trust. Alternatively, you can hand the stubs into the Visitor Centre with a cash or card payment. Please do not send cash in the post.

## If you wish to make a donation towards the Pavilion restoration:

**By bank transfer:** Account name: The Abbotsford Trust
Sort code: 80-06-88
Account Number: 06012853

**Online:** http://easydonate.org/SCOTT255

**By Cheque:** Please make cheques payable to **The Abbotsford Trust** and post to:
Abbotsford, Melrose, Roxburghshire TD6 9BQ

**By cash or card:** You can make a donation by cash, card or cheque at the Visitor Centre

**Gift Aid:** If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid can increase the value of your donation to the Abbotsford Trust at no extra cost to you and may also be tax efficient for you if you are a higher rate taxpayer. We can send you a Gift Aid declaration form if we do not already have one for you – please e-mail friends@scottsabbotsford.co.uk. *For more information about the Gift Aid scheme itself, please see* www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/gift-aid

We welcome support for all aspects of our work as well as towards our endowment fund. If you would like to discuss your ideas with us, please contact Giles Ingram, Chief Executive on 07811 100182 or e-mail giles.ingram@scottsabbotsford.co.uk

*Yet to save Abbotsford I would attempt all that was possible. My heart clings to the place I have created. There is scarce a tree on it that does not owe its being to me.*