



Edinburgh Castle Development Proposal



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1.0 Introduction

In March 2010, a request was made to the World Heritage Unit by the Executive Director to view and make recommendations for the aesthetic development of the historical site of Edinburgh. The site was visited and assessed on June 4 & 18, 2010. Participants in this project are from the above mention unit of the Archeology Division of the JNHT and include Selvenious Walters, Debra-Kay Palmer, Jasinth Simpson, June Heath and Edward Coore from the Finds Unit.

2.0 Background

The Edinburgh Castle property was purchased by Lewis Hutchinson, a Scotsman on his arrival to Jamaica in 1768. It is not clear if the castle was built at that time by slaves or had been previously built prior to being purchased. The castle consisted at that time of a small square two-storey building with circular towers containing loopholes and placed diagonally to each other. A doorway was located at the front and another one situated at the side of the castle close to the front tower. Fire places were also possibly located in both storeys of the front tower.

The owner of the castle was also well known as a cattle thief and based on the vivid accounts of his slaves which was corroborated by his peers was identified as a murderer who took great pleasure in killing any white man who had the misfortune of traversing the highway near to his property and afterwards disposing their bodies in a nearby sinkhole. Mr. Hutchinson was later captured by one of Admiral Rodney's officers and hung in Spanish

Town square on March 16, 1773 for the murder of an English soldier named Callender.

Archeological investigations into the castle ruins by the then Jamaica National Trust Commission indicated that there were two sink holes one of approximately 275ft deep called *Hutchinson's Hole or Kenky Hole* and another varying from in depth from 8ft to 20ft.

Historical land use as indicated by the Jamaica Almanac shows that the property changed hands several times, from Hon. John Lewis in 1818 to Bernal Ralph in 1840. By 1912, the property was 69 acres and described as wood and ruins. Onfroy Thomas owned the property in 1920 and H. Redway in 1930 where the land was used for grazing and woodland and had been reduced to 60 acres. In 1944/5 the owner was W. Conron and the property maintained its function of cattle grazing. The castle is now owned by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and is a national heritage site.



Plate 1. A portrait of Admiral Rodney, the man who captured Lewis Hutchison, the Mad Master

3.0 Observations

On the approach to the site there are no directional signs to indicate the location of the site or to build interest in the property. There is also a noticeable absence of welcome signs or a sign indicating arrival to the property. In addition, story boards that indicate that the property is a heritage site or of national importance were also absent.

In assessing the Edinburgh castle site there were several observations noted. The site is located in the Pedro district of St. Ann on a low hill near to the main road. The hill is made up of mainly limestone rock and has vegetation sparsely distributed around its surface (**Plate 2**). There are also many stones on the hill (**Plate 3**).



Plate 2. View of the limestone hill showing sparse vegetation



Plate 3. View of the limestone hill showing loose stones

The entrance to the site is through a narrow gate consisting of wooden posts and barbed wire (**Plates 4 and 5**) and access through the entrance proved to be difficult for vehicles.



Plates 4 &5. View of gate from main road



The surface at the foot of the hill on entering the property is very uneven and does not provide much space for parking. This area also does not encourage exploration due to its uneven surface. In addition, there is a pumpkin vine planted near to the boundary wall in this area (**Plate 6**).



Pumpkin vine

Plate 6. View of pumpkin vine

Also observed in this area specifically to the left of the entrance gate, rubbish has been dumped and some has been burnt while other pieces have been left as litter (**Plate 7**). There is in this area, a small alcove where some of the plant-life specifically trees has been removed (**Plate 8**). This section also leads to an area where there is evidence that farming has taken place as yam, banana and papaya plants were observed (**Plate 9**).



Plate 7. View of rubbish heap including rusty fragments



Plate 8. Showing alcove



Plate 9. Showing farming area

The castle structure is located at the top of the hill and access is gained along a rocky uneven path which travels from the base of the hill to the castle itself. The path has many loose stones and soil at the first section with larger rocks at the top. This unevenness has the potential to cause injury to persons attempting to access the castle via this path (**Plates 10 & 11**).



Plates 10 &11. Showing views of pathway leading to castle



At a particular juncture of the pathway there are several pepper trees, which have been planted in a small area off of the pathway (**Plate 12**).



Plate 12. Showing pepper trees

The castle structure is aptly described as a ruin. It shows evidence of trees and shrubs growing out of the walls at the top and within the main body of the castle (**Plates 13 &14**). In addition, tree roots were observed growing along the wall of what seems to be the chimney from the fire place (**Plate 15**).



Plate 13. Showing vegetation growing from the top of the of the castle



Plate 14. Showing vegetation growing from the walls of the castle

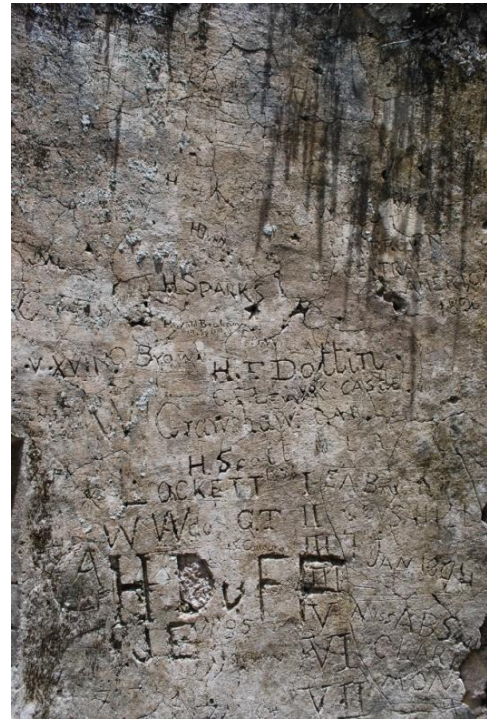


Plate 15. Showing roots growing from the top of the of the structure

Found on the walls of the castle are graffiti markings which have been etched into the stone walls of the castle (Plate 16 & 17).



Plates 16 & 17. Showing graffiti on the walls of the castle



There are also stones which are loose in the structure that may cause damage to visitors if they fall (Plate 18), in addition there are large cracks throughout the structure (Plate 19).



Plate 18. Showing loose stones



Plate 19. Showing large crack in a wall of the structure

There is evidence of wasps and a hive that was found in one of the loopholes at the front of the castle which gives visual access to the main road (**Plate 20**).



Plate 20. Showing bee hive in one of the castle's loop holes

The area where the castle structure is actually located is also quite treacherous and difficult to navigate due to the stony surface (**Plate 21**). There is also some vegetation throughout this area, but it is sparsely distributed. There is at the back of the castle, areas similar to troughs where vegetation such as banana and papaya plants has grown up (**Plate 22**).



Plate 21. Showing stony area around the castle



Plate 22. Showing troughs with vegetation

It was further observed that there are two areas towards the front of the castle that seem to be foundations (**Plate 23**).



Plate 23. Showing foundations at the front of castle

Several artifacts were found on the property. These include several ceramic sherds and two iron artifacts - nail and chain links (**Plate 24**). Found a little way down the hill is what may be one of two sinkholes associated with the property (**Plate 25**).



Plate 24. Showing ceramic and iron artifacts



Plate 25. Showing possibly a sinkhole at the front of property

Observed in some areas is that the boundary walls have broken down, which presents a danger to visitors to the site (**Plate 26**). Also, there is a large stone mound that is found just beside the castle structure (**Plate 27**). In addition, there is no electricity or running water to the site.



Plate 26. Showing broken down walls on sections of the property



Plate 27. Showing stone mound at the front of the property

4.0 Recommendations

The general concept of the Edinburgh castle site is that of an unusual, rustic rest area with an interesting history, boasting a panoramic view of the valley below. The site would be geared towards schools, families and other visitors as a part of a wider tour or heritage trail of historical and natural sites in the area such as Mason River Field Station just over the border in Clarendon; Kellits slave hospital and sugar works; the historic village of Claremont and other places of interest such as Bob Marley's birthplace, Nine Miles (**Brochure: Historical and Natural sites near Edinburgh Castle**). The following recommendations are made within the parameters of this concept.

4.1 Signage and Storyboards

Directional signs should be placed along the road towards the castle to allow for ease in locating the site by visitors.

The following are recommended locations for the placing of signs.

(Map 1: Proposed Directional Signs to Edinburgh Castle):

- Sign to keep left at Golden Grove
- Sign at Claremont Square for left turn at the Clock
- Sign indicating left turn to Ramble Pen
- Sign indicating next left turn
- Sign indicating right turn to Pedro
- Sign indicating right turn at Harmony Vale
- Welcome sign at the property

Storyboards (**Plate 28**) made from weather resistant materials should be placed at strategic places around the property. These storyboards could be placed at the following locations at the site.

- (i) At the Entrance of the property near the gate - Brief history of the site.

- (ii) One along the pathway near the pepper farm to break the journey towards the castle - indicating the presence of the sink hole and its role in the history of the castle
- (iii) One at each of the two loopholes in the towers - to inform and educate visitors to the use of these loopholes and also to give visitors an insight to what the owner of the house may have seen while looking through them.
- (iv) One at the sites for the two sink holes to indicate the use of them by the owner along with depths. Caution signs should also be erected here to prevent any danger from falling in.



Plate 28. Example of Storyboards

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Claremont

Claremont is a town (1991 pop. 2,154) located in the Parish of St. Ann Northern Jamaica. The population there is 2,154. In the centre of town a road branches in the letter Y, the left towards Moneague and the right towards Pedro. The region is mostly agriculture (citrus fruit, corn, pimento, coffee and cattle). Claremont is the site of several historic churches such as the Claremont Free Methodist Church which was built in September 1894 by the first wave of Free Methodists to Jamaica. Claremont was also a former bauxite-mining town.



St. Matthews Anglican Church



Claremont Free Methodist Church

Edinburgh

The Edinburgh Castle property was purchased by Lewis Hutchinson, a Scotsman on his arrival to Jamaica in 1768. Hutchinson was described as a cattle thief and a murderer who was hung in the Spanish town square on March 16, 1773. There are two sink holes one of approximately 275ft deep called *Hutchinson's Hole* or *Kenny Hole* and another varying from a depth of 8ft to 20ft.



Mason River

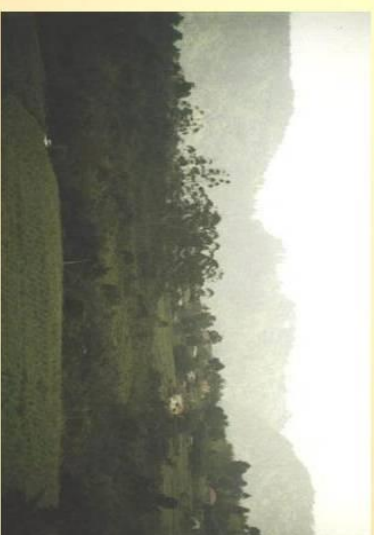
Mason River is declared a protected area under the Natural Resource Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act in 1991. Consisting of 202 acres, 122 acres of this is permanently fenced, 36 acres used as control area and 44 acres used as farm land. It has over 400 species of plants including endemic, rare, introduced, and invasive species.



Venus fly trap



Green Lizard
Anolis garrmani

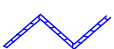


View of Mason River site

Map 1: Proposed Directional Signs to Edinburgh Castle



KEY



Road



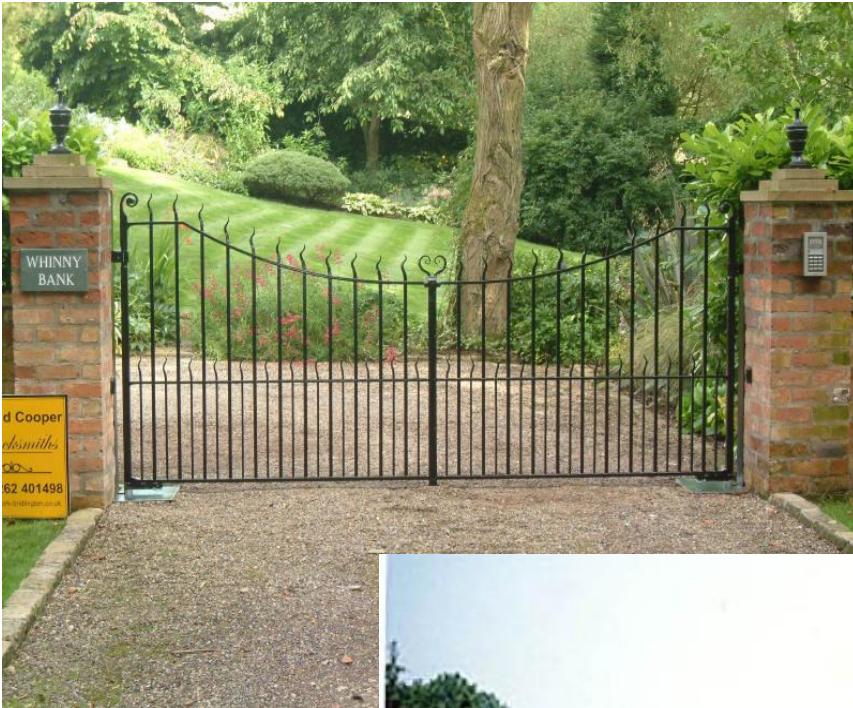
Directional Signs



Edinburgh Castle

4.2 Access and Parking

The access road to the site is in good condition. However, the right entrance gate should be widened or extended 1 to 2 meters to allow for entry of large vehicles on the property such as tour buses. An iron gate (Plates 29 & 30) should be placed at the entrance to the site to replace the current wooden and barbed wire gate.



Plates 29 & 30: Examples of Wrought Iron



The entrance on the left side of the property that is uneven should be leveled and properly landscaped to allow for parking for visitors. The soil that is removed from this area can be used to assist in the landscaping of the property. Outdoor 1x1 sq. ft tiles interspersed with grass could be placed in

this area, to facilitate parking for patrons while adding the softening of site with grassy sections. The grassy areas around the base of the hill could also be linked and grass and other plants be planted around large trees and stones along the walking paths. The pumpkin vine would also be removed in this landscaping process.

4.3 Boundary Walls

Soil deposits at the entrance boundary walls of the property both on the inner and outer sections should be removed and this soil can also be used to assist in the landscaping of the property.

There is a cluster of stones to the right of the property along the boundary wall that should be used to redefine the cut stone boundary wall and to prevent unauthorized entry to the property.

There are several plants and overgrowth on right side of the boundary wall both on the inner and outer section of the property that needs to be cleared. In the area where rubbish has been dumped, it needs to be cleared of all debris.

Palms and colourful flowers should also be planted along the length of the boundary wall to soften it. The drain observed on the left boundary wall should however be left exposed to allow for the running off of the water from the main road.

4.4 Walkway

On the right side of the property, a walkway (**Plate 31**) could be created to include a nature trail and a mountain hike to this section of the site. There are several honeycomb limestone outcrops (**Plate 32**) with fossilized components and an area that is currently used for farming. Other agricultural crops should be planted and the crops labeled to educate visitors to the site of the type of crops that were consumed daily.

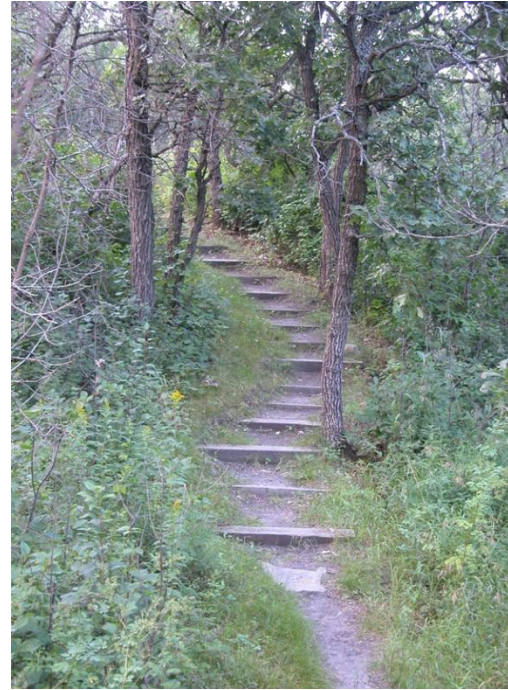
Plate 31: Nature Trail & Mountain Hike



Plate 32: Honeycomb limestone outcrops

The first section of the walkway towards the castle consisting of mostly soil and loose stone should be fitted with wooden beams (**Plates 33 & 34**) as trail steps, to allow easier access to the site and also to prevent washing away of the top soil along the walkway. The trail steps would consist of a combination of gravel, rough paving stone and wood. The stone, gravel and paving stone could be added to create a more solid substrate which would then be compacted and

the wood would act as a retainer to prevent the material washing away. It is important that to reduce slipping when there has been rainfall that the wood be also be rough and not too smooth allowing for a better grip. The section closest to the top of the trail has more stone than soil and steps could be created.



Plates 33 & 34: Showing examples of walkway

The area along the walkway where several pepper trees (**Plate 12**) are planted should be landscaped and planted with several colourful indigenous flowers (**Plate 35**) to beautify this area of the site.



Plate 35: Example of a Landscaped Area

4.5 Grounds

The North West area of the property (**Plate 36**) should be landscaped and a stone bench (**Plate 37**) be placed in the area to provide seating for visitors. The bull thatch palm (**Plate 38**) could be planted behind the stone bench to provide shading for this area.



Plate 36: View of North West area of Property



Plate 37: Example of proposed stone bench



Plate 38: Bull Thatch Palm

The stony mound area opposite the castle on the front of the property should also be landscaped and a simple gazebo (**Plate 39 & 40**) be placed in this area to add to the ambiance of the site, while maintaining its rustic appeal.



Plate 39: example 1 - Gazebo



Plate 40: Example 2 - Gazebo

The open troughs that are located at the back of the castle could be filled in with top soil and flowers planted in them to beautify this area of the property (**Plate 41**). The exposed hillside (**Plate 42**) should have flowers and other plant life placed on it to soften its appearance making it similar to the surrounding hills in the area (**Plate 43**).



Plate 41: Example of stone trough containing flowers



Plate 42: View of Castle hillside



Plate 43: View of hills surrounding castle site

Some of the mature trees that have been cut down show evidence of new growth and should be left undisturbed and be allowed to spring back and provide more shade for the property.

Terraces for planting small gardens could also be created on the exposed hill to add beauty to its current starkness as well as to reduce soil erosion (**Plates 44 & 45**). This would go around the hill's entire circumference. Terracing can be carried out as a part of the long-term plan for the property.



Plate 44: Example 1 of terraced hill



Plate 45: Example 2 of terraced hill

4.6 Castle Ruin

All weeds, small trees and roots that are currently protruding from and growing within the structure should be removed with the assistance of the Conservation Unit. For the areas that exhibit cracks in the walls, these areas should also be restored by filling as soon as possible to prevent any further deterioration of the structure.

The large loose stone that was observed in the chimney should be removed to prevent injury to visitors as well as further deterioration of the building.

There are several options that can be used to treat the graffiti on the walls of the structure. They include abrasion to smooth out the graffiti on the wall surface; with this option care must be taken not to damage the ruins by the vibrations and cause the general weakening of the structure. Another option include using fillers to resurface the wall, however, care must be taken to ensure that the mixture is compatible with the stone structure and a final option is to do nothing to remove the graffiti but have it remain as part of the history of the ruin.

Broken down walls should be restored using the stones from the property. Also the walls surrounding the castle should to be reconstructed to ensure safety for visitors to the site.

4.7 Lighting

The absence of lighting must be addressed if the site is going to be used during the evening and into the night. However, it is recommended that the site be used mainly during the day due to the uneven, stony nature of the surrounding grounds and within the castle ruins itself.

4.8 Bathroom facilities

Bathroom facilities are needed if the site is being used as a rest stop. These facilities could be placed at the base of the hill possibly to the left of the gate by the boundary wall near to the drain. They would be softened and shaded by

trees and other plant life such as ornamental banana plants (Plate 46 & 47) and palm trees, which are found in the area, could be planted in the surrounding area. A small trailer could be re-conditioned for this purpose or a single cubicle with wash basin and toilet fixtures could be built. It is further suggested that running water or tank water be made available for the bathrooms. The availability of the facilities can be done within the small to medium term development of the site.



**Plate 46: Musa 'Mini' Super Dwarf
ornamental banana plant**



**Plate 47: Musa 'Rose Red'
ornamental banana**

5.0 CONCLUSION

The development of the Edinburgh site has the potential for the exposure of not only an interesting property but also for the promotion of other historic and natural sites in the area. The site provides an opportunity for creating an appeal to a target audience such as students, tour operators and visitors to nearby properties, who may enjoy the adventure of climbing a hill to a beautiful ruin and resting in an area that is cool and boast a remarkable view.

Executing the recommendations for the development of this site will increase its exposure and marketability to both locals and visitors, as well as increase visitorship to surrounding sites.

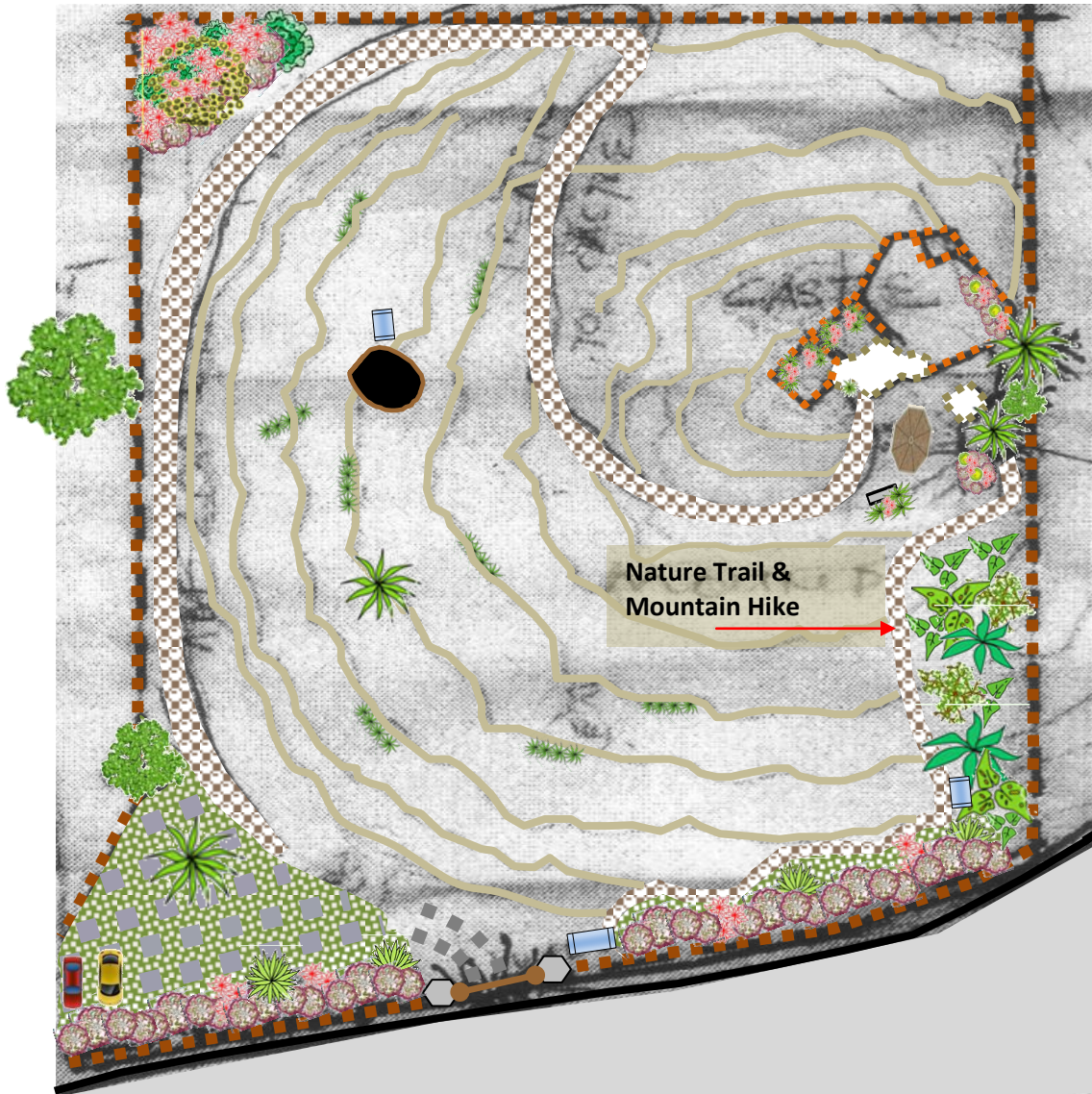
It is also necessary to stress the importance of marketing the site especially to schools and tour operators as this may prove to be the largest source of visitors to the property.






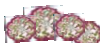











Development Plans:

Overview of the Castle property

Development Plan of the Castle site
















Overview of the Castle property



	Walkway		Flower 1		Banana		Gazebo
	Grass		Flower 2		Yam		Ruins
	Coco Plant		Flower 3		Papaya		Sink Hole
	Tree		Tree		Cut Stone Wall		Hillside Contour
			Story board				

Development Plan of the Castle site



	Walkway		Flower 1		Story board		Gazebo
	Grass		Flower 2		Stone Bench		Hillside Contour
	Coco Plant		Flower 3		Ruins		Sink Hole
	Tree		Tree		Cut stone wall		