



Case information

Case ID	300017961
File Reference	HGH/B/SG/90
Name of Site	Kelburn Bridge over Kelburn Water near former Stable Block

Local Authority	North Ayrshire Council		
National Grid Reference	NS 21564, 56591		
Designation No. (if any)	LB7300		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	C
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	11/02/2016 [Kelburn Castle Estate Listing Review]
Decision Date	17/11/2016

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, the Kelburn Bridge over Kel Burn continues to meet the criteria for listing at category C. The statutory listing address and the listed building record have been amended.

Previous Statutory Address	Kelburn Bridge over Kelburn Water near former Stable Block
Amended Statutory Address	Kelburn Bridge over Kel Burn on south approach drive, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed at category C on 29/08/1985.

The structure is located within Kelburn Castle Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL00233).

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The bridge was considered for amendment as part of Kelburn Castle Estate Listing Review 2016.

Kelburn Castle and associated ancillary buildings and structures were visited on 06/04/2016.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to continue to meet the criteria for listing.

A full assessment against the listing criteria was carried out. See **Annex A**.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 2, pp. 51-53.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Kelburn Bridge over Kel Burn on south approach drive, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

1. Description

Circa 1750. A single-span, segmental-arch bridge crossing the Kel Burn to the southwest of Kelburn Castle on the principal south approach drive to Kelburn Castle. The bridge has a level carriageway with a stepped splayed parapet of diagonally droved ashlar, and polished ashlar voussoirs with a moulded cornice.

2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 51-52

Criteria for determining whether a building is of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ for listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents]

To be listed, a building need not meet all the listing criteria. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions.

2.1 Age and Rarity

Probably dating to around 1750, this single-span bridge crosses the Kel Burn on the main South Drive approach to Kelburn Castle. The bridge retains the same footprint as it appeared on the first Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1855.

Kelburn is among the oldest ancestral country seats in Scotland to have been continuously inhabited by successive generations of one family, having been in possession of the Boyle family (formerly 'de Boyville') since the 12th century. Kelburn has a prominent coastal setting to the south of the town of Largs, with views from the castle across the Firth of Clyde to the Isles of Cumbrae and Bute and southwest to the Isle of Arran. The Kel Burn runs through the estate, passing through a wooded ravine and over a 15 metre high waterfall into a naturally carved pool to the southwest of the castle.

Kelburn Castle, like Stair House in Ayrshire (LB14372) and Blair Castle in Perthshire (LB6074) is a multi-period building which demonstrates the transition from the medieval tower house tradition towards the new fashion during the Renaissance period for domestic, non-fortified buildings. The designs for these new buildings were classically inspired and often included a formal suite of rooms or apartments.

The medieval tower house section of the building, with stair towers at opposing corners forming the classic ‘Z-plan’ was remodelled circa 1580 by the then Laird of Kelburn, John Boyle incorporating fabric from earlier structures on the site. The later 17th century/early 18th century additions reflect the significant changes at large estates where remodelling along classical architectural lines followed the contemporary taste for formality and rationality, and catered to the owners’ desire to

improve their status by accommodating important guests and providing them opportunity for the conspicuous display of wealth and knowledge.

In 1869, the 6th Earl of Glasgow inherited Kelburn along with a number of other estates in Scotland and this coincided with a major phase of development and building improvement across the estate around this time including the building of new gate lodges and gatepiers, a new gardener's cottage, ghillie's house and kennels. Another significant extension to the castle was also added around this period.

The castle is the focal point within the Kelburn estate policies. The principal phases of addition are distinctly identifiable and the successive additions dating from the early Scottish Renaissance to the present day represent changing political and cultural values as well demonstrating a significant transition in Scottish domestic architecture at this time. Associated ancillary estate buildings and structures, including sundials, monuments, stable offices, lodges, bridges and worker's cottages (some of which are listed separately) contribute to our understanding of this historically significant ancestral seat.

By the beginning of the 18th century, the laying out of estate landscapes began to move away from the formal rigidity and symmetrically of the late 17th century estate planning. Classically derived bridges and monuments were introduced as part of designed landscapes during the 18th century. There are many 18th century bridges on large estates, with Scotland having a particularly fine tradition of bridge building in stone. During this period longer, curved or serpentine approach drives (moving away from formal, symmetrical approaches) with gate lodges often located at the perimeter of the estate were built, to mark the main entry points to estates. Due to the amount of naturally flowing burns and rivers in lowland Scotland this often resulted in the need for bridges in larger estates. During the 1730s and 1740s, classical and 'Gothick' styles were favoured for estate bridge buildings with informal landscapes laid out in what could be called an idealised 'natural' manner.

The bridge over the Kel Burn at Kelburn Castle is a significant structural part of the processional approach to the castle from the south and is a notable early part of the developing estate landscape. It survives predominantly in its original form.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

n/a

Plan form

The splayed-rectangular plan form and single span arch is typical of (small) estate bridges added to the estates of Scotland during the 18th century.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The single-span, classically derived form of this bridge is contemporary with the significant improvement works made to the Kelburn Estate during the mid-18th

century. The large blocks of diagonally droved ashlar stone are well hewn and of a good material quality.

It is functional and understated in its design and scale with a simple moulded arch with voussoirs in the classical style, and has been designed to blend in with the natural landscape.

Setting

The bridge over the Kelburn Water at Kelburn Castle is a component of the principal approach to the castle from the south, and is part of a group of associated contemporary estate buildings including the inter-visible former stable office visitor centre (LB7296). It forms part of the 18th century development of the designed landscape.

Regional variations

There are no known regional variations.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

None known at present.

Kelburn is among the oldest country seats in Scotland to have been continuously inhabited by successive generations of one family, the Boyles. The family crest and initials of various family members are represented in the stonework at Kelburn Castle. People of significant social standing commissioned houses and the developed their estates and the association with these people is not a significant factor in this assessment for listing.

3. Working with the Principles of Listing (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 53

In choosing buildings within the above broad headings particular attention is paid to:

- a. special value within building types*
- b. contribution to an architecturally or historically interesting group*
- c. the impact of a grouping of buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing the bridge has particular interest under b and c.

b. This modest, classically proportioned bridge makes a contribution to the ancillary buildings and structures associated with Kelburn Castle, which adds collectively to the architectural and historic interest of the estate.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

This circa 1750 bridge over the Kel Burn is a single-span bridge of classical proportions and is finely constructed of diagonally droved ashlar stone with simple, paired-back detailing. It survives largely as it was first built. It makes a contribution to

our understanding of the design and development of the Kelburn Castle landscape during the 18th century.

It is considered to continue meet the criteria for listing.

5. Category of Listing

Categories of listing are non-statutory and buildings are assigned a category (A, B or C) according to their relative importance following the assessment against the criteria for listing.

Category definitions are found at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

This bridge is a modest example of a mid-18th century bridge over a principal approach drive on a large country estate. It is considered to be appropriate listed at category C.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/206539>

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1855; published 1857) Ayrshire, Sheet VI (includes: Cumbrae; West Kilbride) 6 inch to 1 mile, 1st Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey

Printed Sources

Old Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-1799) Vol.2: Largs Parish, Ayrshire, p.361

Close R. (1992) *Ayrshire and Arran - An Illustrated Architectural Guide*. Edinburgh: Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, p.82

Close R. and Riches A. (2012) *Buildings of Scotland – Ayrshire and Arran*. London: Yale University Press. pp.392-399

MacGibbon, and Ross (1902) *The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, Vol V. Edinburgh: David Douglas. pp.407-412

Weaver, L. (12 August 1916) 'Kelburne Castle, Ayrshire', *Country Life Magazine* pp. 182-6

Archives

Scottish National Monuments Record, Ref: AYD/52/2.

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the special interest of a building. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated listed building record should the structure be listed. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

** A building may be found to meet the listing criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the list. See 'When might Historic Environment Scotland list a building' at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>