Case information

Historic Environment Scotland - Scottish Charity No. SC045925
Registered Address: Longmore House, 1 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Case ID	300009893
File Reference	AMJ/9292/1/1
Name of Site	Liberton Battery, anti-aircraft battery 100m E of Liberton Kennels

Local Authority	City of Edinburgh		
National Grid Reference	NT 26570 69171		
Designation No. (if any)	SM 13607		
Designation Type	Scheduled Monument	**Current Category of Listing**	N/A
Case Type	Designation		

Received/Start Date	28/10/2013
Decision Date	01/10/2015

1. Proposed Decision

The decision is to designate the monument as a scheduled monument.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The monument is currently undesignated.

2.2 Development Proposals

N/A

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The site was visited on 25/09/2014 and related documentation and evidence from site visit has been peer reviewed.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the Scheduling criteria has been carried out 29/06/2015.

The monument was found to meet the criteria for scheduling.

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf

3.3 Other considerations

NA

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria*
Liberton Battery, anti-aircraft battery 100m E of Liberton Kennels

1. Description

The monument is the remains of a heavy anti-aircraft battery built during the Second World War. It is visible as a series of concrete and brick structures and associated earthworks. The main structures comprise four gun emplacements, two magazines and the command post. The battery is located on the lower, east-facing slopes of the Braid Hills at around 125m above sea level. There are extensive views to the N and E over Edinburgh and the Forth.

This is one of a network of anti-aircraft batteries built to defend Edinburgh and the Forth. Documentary sources show that the gun emplacements housed four 3.7 inch guns. The remains of concrete hard standings for an associated camp lie to the W, and a scarped area that accommodated the gun laying radar lies to the N, but the camp and radar sites are not included in the scheduled area because they show a lower level of preservation and the camp site is in active use.

The scheduled area is irregular on plan and includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive, as shown in red on the accompanying map. The scheduling specifically excludes the fences at the boundaries of the scheduled area, the above-ground elements of post-and-wire fences within the scheduled area, and the above ground elements of animal feeders.

2. Assessment Against the Scheduling Criteria (SHEP, 2011) pp71-73**

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge. It will form the basis of any new or updated scheduled monument record.
** A monument may be found to meet the scheduling criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the Schedule. The purpose and implications of scheduling are issues that require to be taken into account when assessing monuments for scheduling. Scheduling may not be the only, or the most appropriate mechanism, to secure the future of all sites, even those that may otherwise meet the criteria.

Cultural significance

Characteristic	Assessment
Intrinsic	
Condition in which monument survives	• The monument is a Second World War heavy anti-aircraft battery (see description). • The surviving elements included in the scheduled area comprise: four gun emplacements for 3.7 inch guns; the remains of the battery command post; and two magazines. • The upstanding buildings are in very good condition compared to other heavy anti-aircraft batteries across Scotland. Although some elements have been altered and removed since the battery was constructed, some small fixtures and fittings such as door and electrics survive in places.
Archaeological, scientific, technological or other interest or research potential of the	• Anti-aircraft batteries were constructed in the Second World War to defend Edinburgh and the Forth with its strategic naval and merchant facilities. Records suggest they

monument	generally followed a standardised pattern, with four gun emplacements, but there is potential for individual variation reflecting the local availability of materials. • The research potential of this example is enhanced by the partial survival of small fixtures and fittings (noted above), by the retention of features such as ammunition lockers and holdfasts within the gun emplacements, and by the generally good condition of the structures which allows the operation of the battery to be understood and appreciated. • There is high potential for the survival of archaeological evidence, both within and around the battery, which can increase our understanding of the construction and use of the battery and the lives of the men who built and served on it.
Apparent developmental sequence of monument (either long or short may provide insights of importance)	• Liberton AA battery is first referred to in documents of February 1940. It had 3.7 inch guns and GL Mark II fire control radar when mentioned in 1942 and 1943. GL radar was used to improve both detection and targeting of incoming enemy aircraft, and developed as the war progressed. Its installation here may represent a development of the original battery configuration. • Documents also indicate change in the personnel stationed at the battery, with different regiments and batteries noted in 1940 and 1942. Documents indicate battery personnel would typically be shifted between gun sites every six months.
Original or subsequent functions of the monument and its parts	The monument was developed as part of a network of defences to protect the strategically important Forth Estuary from aerial attack.
Contextual	
Present rarity or representativeness of all or any part of the monument, assessed against knowledge of the archaeology of Scotland and of the region in which the monument occurs	• There were 130 anti-aircraft batteries within Scotland during the Second World War, of which 20 were in the Forth Gun Defended Area (GDA). They were positioned to help defend strategically significant targets from aerial attack. Five of these batteries were sited around Edinburgh (Restalrig, Liberton, Sighthill, West Pilton and Broomfield). • It is very rare to find a well preserved anti-aircraft battery in such close proximity to a major city. The condition and survival of Liberton Battery compares very well with other batteries in more northerly locations such as Orkney and Shetland.
Relationship of the monument to other monuments of the same or related classes or period, or to features or monuments in the vicinity. (Particularly important for monuments forming part of a widespread but varied class)	• The monument forms part of the strategic defence network for the Forth, but was also a component of a national defensive system that extended from Shetland to Cornwall. • It appears to be the best preserved of the batteries in the Forth Gun Defended Area. All the other Edinburgh batteries appear to have been demolished (Restalrig Battery, RCAHMS site NT27NE 160); Sighthill Battery, NT17SE 91; West Pilton Battery, NT27NW 50, Broomhill Battery, no RCAHMS record).
Relationship of the monument and its parts with its wider landscape and setting	• Each battery was carefully sited to maximise strategic value. This example is located on sloping ground, with an extensive prospect N and E over Edinburgh and the Forth.
Associative	
Historical, cultural and social influences that have affected the form and fabric of the monument, and vice versa	• Construction of the battery was a response to the threat of German attack during the Second World War.
Aesthetic attributes of the monument	N/A

Significance in the national consciousness or to people who use or have used the monument, or descendants of such people	• The Second World War has a highly significant place in the national consciousness. Sites associated with the war have considerable meaning for those who served and for relatives and descendants from across the globe. They also provide evidence of the largest single construction effort ever to have taken place in British history and had a significant impact on the local population and landscape.
Associations the monument has with historical, traditional or artistic characters or events	• The monument is a highly visible reminder of the considerable efforts made to defend the British Isles during the Second World War.

Assessment of national importance

Criteria	Assessment
Its inherent capability or potential to make a significant addition to the understanding or appreciation of the past	The monument has inherent potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past, particularly the defences constructed and manned as part of the extensive effort to defend Britain during the Second World War. The physical legacy of the Second World War is a significant reminder of a major event in human history, and demonstrates the impact that the war had on the people and landscape of Scotland. This site can tell us about the daily lives of those who built and operated these anti-aircraft defences. This monument retains its field characteristics to a marked degree, with well-preserved concrete and brick structures that retain some fixtures and fittings that often do not survive at comparable sites. Anti-aircraft defences are one of the most prominent and important elements of the network of wartime remains within Britain. They were carefully positioned to take advantage of local terrain, topography and lines of sight to defend and protect the most valuable strategic, industrial and economic national assets. The defences of the Forth were part of a wider national system utilising the landscape of Scotland and the UK. The preservation of some of the most important and best preserved individual sites can enhance our understanding and appreciation of the wider Second World War defensive landscape of Scotland and the sacrifices made by people during the conflict. Details of the construction and use of anti-aircraft batteries can be found in the official records of the War Office. If this monument was to be lost or damaged, it would significantly affect our ability to understand the nature and scale of the efforts made to defend Britain against enemy aerial threats in the Second World War, and diminish the associations between communities and their collective experience or memory of the Second World War. Loss of the monument would also have a particular impact on our ability to understand and appreciate the defence of the Forth and of Scotland's capital city during the conflict. These monumental concrete structures are highly visible and powerful reminders of one of the defining events of the 20th century, and of modern human history.
Its retention of the structural, decorative or field characteristics of its kind to a marked degree	
Its contribution, or the contribution of its class, to today's landscape and/or the historic landscape	
The quality and extent of any documentation or association that adds to the understanding of the monument or its context	
The diminution of the potential of a particular class or classes of monument to contribute to an understanding of the past, should the monument be lost or damaged	
Its place in the national consciousness [a factor that may be considered in support of other factors]	

References

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland: http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html CANMORE ID 118887.

Brown, I 2002, 20th Century Defences in Britain: an Introductory Guide, Council for British Archaeology, York.

Dobinson, C. 2001. , AA command: Britain's Anti-Aircraft Defences of the Second World War. London: Methuen.

Redfern, N I, 1998, Twentieth Century Fortifications in the United Kingdom, vol 4, Site gazetteers: Scotland (i), Council for British Archaeology, York. 18-20

Date of Assessment	29/06/2015