

Case information

Case ID	300017051		
File Reference	HGH/B/TC/219		
Name of Site	Castle Huntly, Ice House, near Dundee		
Local Authority	Perth and Kinross Council		
National Grid Reference	NO 30207 29208		
Designation No. (if any)	LB12870		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	B
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	2014 [Scottish Prison Service Listing Review 2014-15]		
Decision Date	23/10/2015		

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, the Ice House continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record have been amended. The category of listing has changed from B to A.

Statutory address	Ice House, HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, near Dundee
--------------------------	---

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Castle Huntly, the North Gate and the Dovecot were all listed on 05/10/1971. The Ice House was listed on 25/02/1993. The buildings are situated within Longforgan Parish which was resurveyed in 1996. No known comprehensive listing review of the buildings has taken place since 1996.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The HMP Castle Huntly site was visited on 10 December 2014 as part of our partnership project with the Scottish Prison Service where we are carrying out a review of existing listed prisons. The review of HMP Castle Huntly is part of this project. The exterior and interior of the Ice House was seen.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the Listing criteria was carried out. See **Annex A**.

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

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Elizabeth McCrone, Head of Designations Elizabeth.mccrone@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, 0131 668 8760
----------------	---

ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Ice House, HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, near Dundee

1. Description

The ice house dates to the late 17th century and situated to the northeast of the castle. There is a semicircular forecourt set into the hillside with rubble retaining walls and a flight of steps leading down to the entrance. This is surrounded by later metal railings. The interior was seen in 2014. There is a brick lined passage that leads to the egg-shaped brick-lined ice chamber.

2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (SHEP, 2011) pp74-75

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

Castle Huntly has its origins in the 15th century. During the Second World War it was used as a girls’ probation school before being bought by the Scottish Home and Heath Department in 1946 for use as a Borstal. It was later used as a Young Offenders’ Institution and it is now an Open Prison for adults.

The site has been redeveloped in the 20th and 21st centuries and there are a number of later buildings on the site related to the Open Prison which are not considered to be of interest in listing terms at the time of this review.

The storage of food was an important consideration for a large estate with many people to feed. With no mechanical refrigeration, keeping food fresh was vital and a variety of specialist buildings were developed for this critical function, of which ice houses were one such type.

Ice houses are usually freestanding and covered with either turf or thatch and concealed within a natural slope to keep them cool. The majority were built between 1750 and 1875, usually on an estate near a stable block or walled garden. In the winter they were filled with ice collected from nearby ponds or rivers and then used to store a variety of produce, such as fish, meat, and drink throughout the year. While they are normally less obvious in the landscape than other ancillary estate buildings, ice houses are nevertheless an important building type as they tell us much about our domestic and estate history and they are an integral part of the suite of buildings that are associated with large houses.

E A Urquhart in his article about the ice house at Castle Huntly in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* of 1959-60 notes that 'it would seem to be one of the finest examples extant' (p.248). Urquhart explains that there is a record of work being done at an ice house in 1692 and it is assumed that the record refers to the surviving ice house and that it was therefore built by this date. Urquhart suggests that ice houses were introduced to Britain (London) in around 1650.

In terms of age, the Castle Huntly Ice House is therefore an exceptionally early example not only for Scotland, but also for the UK. When considering rarity, while ice houses from the 18th and 19th centuries are fairly common in an estate context, earlier examples are rare and intact early examples are even scarcer. For a building type which has long ceased to be used and was usually discretely sited, many have been at later risk of collapse. Castle Huntly is therefore also distinguished by its excellent condition with the brick interior in good repair. Although it does not have an 'architectural' treatment to its entrance like some of the finer examples from the 18th century onwards, it is, in our current state of knowledge, amongst Scotland's earliest and best-preserved ice houses.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The interior, seen in 2014, is lined with handmade bricks as is typical for the building type, although this is a particularly early example. The excellent condition of the interior is of note.

Plan form

The plan form is typical for the building type.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

See *age and rarity* above for further information relating to this section.

At the time of writing there is no particular technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality in relation to the Ice House. The use of bricks to the interior and the plan form are standard for the building type.

Setting

The immediate setting of the Ice House has been altered by 20th century construction, however, for a feature which is intended to be discretely sited and not to have a particular landscape presence this has had little impact on its special interest.

Regional variations

There are no known regional variations.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

Due to its age and status many people of note throughout the centuries have been associated with Castle Huntly. In an architectural context perhaps the most significant was Patrick, third Earl of Kinghorne who carried out the late 17th century work to the Castle. He also carried out the rebuilding of Glamis Castle in 1670-9

which he designed himself. He reorientated and extended Glamis into a symmetrical splay plan and made a range of other innovative alterations. Kinghorne made an important contribution to Scottish architectural and landscape history.

3. Working with the Principles of Listing (SHEP 2011, p76)

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 vernacular buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing Castle Huntly Ice House has particular interest under a, b and d.

- a) This ice house has special value within the context of ice houses for its early date and excellent level of survival.
- b) The interest of the ice house is enhanced by the survival of the castle, dovecot and north gates and the group value here is therefore important in understanding the site and its development.
- d) This ice house appears to be largely unaltered and therefore retains its authenticity.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

Probably dating from around 1692, the Castle Huntly Ice House is an exceptionally early example not only for Scotland, but also for the UK. While ice houses from the 18th and 19th centuries are fairly common in an estate context, earlier examples are rare and intact early examples are even scarcer. For a building type which has long ceased to be used and was usually discretely sited, many have been at later risk of collapse. Castle Huntly Ice House is therefore also distinguished by its excellent condition with the brick interior in good repair. Although it does not have an 'architectural' treatment to its entrance like some of the finer examples from the 18th century onwards, it is, in our current state of knowledge, amongst Scotland's earliest and best-preserved ice houses.

In our current state of knowledge it continues to 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: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/heritage/historicandlistedbuildings/listing

The Castle Huntly Ice House is an exceptionally early example not only for Scotland, but also for the UK. It is, in our current state of knowledge, amongst Scotland's

earliest and best-preserved ice houses. It is recommended that a change of category from B to A would better reflect the relative interest of the structure as one of national importance.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland:
<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/canmore.html> CANMORE ID 31728

John Adair (1683) *The Mappe of Straithern, Stormont, and Cars of Gowrie with the rivers Tay and Ern* at <http://maps.nls.uk/view/00001006>

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1861, published 1867) *Perthshire LXXXVIII*. 6 inches to 1 mile 1st Edition. London: Ordnance Survey.

John Gifford (2007) *Perth and Kinross: The Buildings of Scotland*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press. p.259-62.

Statistical Account (1791-99) *Longforgan – County of Perth*, Vol. 19. pp.468, 474-479.

New Statistical Account (1834-45) *Longforgan – County of Perth*, Vol. 10. pp.409-10.

Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Session 1959-60, Vol. 93. pp.202-16.

Date of Assessment	23/07/2015
---------------------------	------------

* 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 www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/historicandlistedbuildings/whatwelist