

Case information

Case ID	300017052		
File Reference	HGH/B/TC/219		
Name of Site	Castle Huntly, Dovecot, near Dundee		
Local Authority	Perth and Kinross Council		
National Grid Reference	NO 30100 29375		
Designation No. (if any)	LB12869		
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 Dovecot HMP Castle Huntly, continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record has been amended.

Statutory address	Dovecot, HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, near Dundee
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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

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 the interior of the Dovecot 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
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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Dovecot, HMP Castle Huntly, Longforgan, near Dundee

1. Description

Dating from the late 17th century it is a square plan pavilion type doocot constructed from rubble masonry and it lies a short distance to the northeast of the castle. There is a pointed arch entrance and a rat course between partially surviving corbelled angle turrets which incorporate flight holes. It is now roofless. There are stone nesting boxes to the interior (seen in 2014).

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 of interest in listing terms.

The doocot at Castle Huntly appears on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map which was surveyed in 1861 and published in 1867.

The earliest surviving dovecots (known as doocots in Scotland) or pigeon-houses date from the 16th century. Dooocots provided shelter, protection from vermin and nesting facilities for pigeons. These distinctive structures, found principally on monastic establishments and estates with large households, provided a welcome and easily caught source of meat, particularly in the winter months, while the accumulated manure was a rich fertiliser for the land. They are most common in arable areas which could provide sufficient food for the pigeons and are therefore more prevalent in the east of Scotland. Dooocots largely ceased to be built after the mid-19th century when the need for them diminished, although a few decorative examples were constructed in the Edwardian period.

Dooocots are an important building type, they tell us much about our agricultural and domestic history and they are often prominent landscape features. The early,

circular 'beehive' design was superseded by dovecots of square and rectangular plan, such as at Castle Huntly.

Within the history of doocots the example at Castle Huntly is of particular interest for its age. 17th century examples of surviving doocots are rare, the majority of surviving examples date from the 18th century onwards. In terms of rarity it is the design of the Castle Huntly doocot that is particularly unusual. Dooocots tend to be relatively plain, functional buildings with little embellishment, other than perhaps crow-stepped gables. The example at Castle Huntly, with a pointed arch entrance and corbelled angle turrets with flight holes is exceptionally rare.

While the sources used for this assessment state that the doocot dates from the late 17th century it is possible that the corbelled angle turrets (and pyramidal roof which no longer survives) were additions of the second half of the 18th century when the castle was being altered. If they do date from the late 17th century it is also an unusually early example of the doocot being treated as an architectural landscape feature which is an idea more associated with the 18th century. In any event, the Castle Huntly doocot is an old and rare example of a doocot, albeit that the pyramidal roof and lantern no longer remains.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The interior was partially seen. It is lined with stone nesting boxes as is typical for the building type.

Plan form

While lectern type doocots are perhaps more common in this period, the pavilion type plan here is nevertheless fairly typical.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

As noted above the design of this doocot is exceptional, as many other examples of this building type for this date are relatively plain. The design quality has been reduced as the pyramidal roof and lantern no longer survive (see Age and Rarity above).

Setting

As the Doocot lies in a field to the northeast of the Castle it has been less affected by the 20th century construction around the Castle.

Regional variations

Other than local stone being used in the construction of the Doocot there is no significant regional variation here.

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 the Dovecot mentioned above have particular interest under a, b and d.

- a) This is a particularly decorative and early example of a dovecot
- b) The interest of the dovecot is enhanced by the survival of the castle, ice house and north gate and the group value here is therefore important in understanding the site and its development.
- d) While the structure is roofless enough remains of the surviving fabric to understand its unusual design.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

Within the history of doocots the example at Castle Huntly is of particular interest for its age. 17th century examples of surviving doocots are rare, the majority of surviving examples date from the 18th century onwards. The design of the Castle Huntly doocot is also particularly unusual. Doocots tend to be functional buildings with little embellishment, other than perhaps crow-stepped gables. The pointed arch entrance and corbelled angle turrets with flight holes design at Castle Huntly is exceptionally rare. The Castle Huntly doocot is an old and rare example of a doocot, albeit that the pyramidal roof and lantern no longer remains.

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

17th century examples of surviving doocots are rare, however, the example at Castle Huntly does not survive intact. The loss of the pyramidal roof has had an impact on its relative interest and therefore it is recommended that it continues to meet the criteria for listing at category B as a major example of a building type which has been altered.

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
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* 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