



## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300017965
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/SG/95
<b>Name of Site</b>	Kelburn Gatepiers on South Drive (At A78)

<b>Local Authority</b>	North Ayrshire Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NS 21059, 56385		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	LB7302		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	B
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	April 2016 [Kelburn Castle Estate Listing Review]
<b>Decision Date</b>	17/11/2016

## 1. Decision

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In our current state of knowledge, the Gatepiers on the South Drive, Kelburn Castle continue 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 C.

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	Kelburn Gatepiers on South Drive (At A78)
<b>Amended Statutory Address</b>	South Drive Gatepiers and Gates, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

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

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

## 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

These gatepiers were considered for amendment as part of Kelburn Castle Estate Listing Review 2016.

Kelburn Castle and its 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.

An 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\***

## **South Drive Gatepiers and Gates, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie**

### **1. Description**

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Circa 1885. A pair of substantial, square-plan, corniced, polished ashlar gatepiers with swept capstones, each surmounted by a large ball finial. Ornate wrought iron gates with scrolls, cameos and thistle finials.

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

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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](http://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**

The South Drive is shown on the first Edition Ordnance Survey Map, surveyed 1855. The map shows the footprint of a former South Lodge (now demolished) but does not depict any gatepiers at this location at that time. The central approach drive to Kelburn Castle from the west is no longer in use, and was truncated in circa 1885 when the Largs to Fairlie road was realigned to allow the railway to skirt the coastline to the west. The entrance to the South Drive was not altered as part of these construction works. The footprint of the (demolished) South Lodge and the gatepiers are shown on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1908. It is possible that the ball-finished gatepiers at the south drive were formerly sited elsewhere on the estate prior to the realignment of the former Largs to Fairlie road.

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 17<sup>th</sup> century/early 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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, gamekeeper's cottage 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.

The construction of the south drive gatepiers and iron gates may pre-date the changes made as a result of the road re-alignment in 1885 but are probably no earlier than 1860 and may have been built as part of the extensive improvement works carried out the estate by the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Glasgow after he inherited in 1869.

The curved necked and ball-finished caps are in keeping with the design of the early to mid-18<sup>th</sup> century gatepiers fronting the castle courtyard and the former home farm (see separate listings) but the tapering necks supporting the ball finials are less delicate than the earlier examples, possibly indicating a later date of construction. The ornate wrought iron gates with thistle finials are of a style favoured during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, similar to ironwork by Thomas Hadden of that period.

The gatepiers at the South Drive are good surviving examples of their type and the ornate wrought iron gates are a particularly rare survival. Together the gates and piers mark a principal entrance to the Kelburn Castle grounds and are an important component of the estate.

## **2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest**

### ***Interior***

n/a

### ***Plan form***

n/a

### ***Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality***

These corniced gatepiers are plain, with the curved neck and ball-finished caps replicate the design of early 18<sup>th</sup> century gatepiers and finials found at the core of the Kelburn estate directly adjacent to the castle. The gates are notable for their material quality and ornate design, with delicate scrolled iron work and thistle details.

### ***Setting***

These gatepiers mark the entrance to the principal south approach drive to the castle. The entrance is located on low ground close to the coast line and is inter-visible with the Isle of Great Cumbrae to the west. The castle is not visible from the gates. These gates are a prominently located and notable part of the setting and context of the Kelburn Castle estate, marking a principal public and private entrance to the policies.

### ***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. 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

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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 monument has interest under b.

- b. These gatepiers and gates are a notable ancillary structure associated with the Kelburn estate. Their style is in keeping with the earlier ball-finished gatepiers at Kelburn Castle and the former Home Farm, contributing to an architecturally and historically interesting group of estate buildings.

## **4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*\***

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These gatepiers and gates mark the entrance of the principal south approach drive to Kelburn Castle which was constructed in the later 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Their design follows a simplified classical style in keeping with the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century ball-finished gatepiers at the Kelburn Castle pleasure courtyard and at the former Home Farm (see separate listings). The survival of the ornate wrought iron gates, which are largely intact, add to their interest.

In our current state of knowledge, the gatepiers continue to meet the criteria for listing.

## 5. Category of Listing

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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/>

These gatepiers are typical examples of their building type, which are commonly found at large estates, during the second half of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. In view of the relatively late date of construction and taking account of later alterations when comparing it to other similar gatepiers and gates more widely, category C, is considered to be the more appropriate category than the current category B.

## 6. Other Information

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N/A

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/206532>

### Maps

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

### Printed Sources

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

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

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