



## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300017966
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/SG/96
<b>Name of Site</b>	Kelburn Monument to John, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

<b>Local Authority</b>	North Ayrshire Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NS 21890, 56714		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	LB7295		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	A
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		

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

## 1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Monument to John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie continues to meet the criteria for listing at category A. The statutory listing address and the listed building record have been amended.

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	Kelburn Monument To John, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow
<b>Amended Statutory Address</b>	Monument to John, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed at category B on 14/04/1971. The category was changed from B to A on 18/06/1987.

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

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### 3.1 Assessment information

The Monument to John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow 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 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\***

## **Monument to John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie**

### **1. Description**

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Robert Adam, dated 1775; possibly carved by Giuseppe Ceracchi. Freestanding, trapezoid-shaped monument of polished sandstone ashlar with a pedimented, classical aedicule framing a round arch alcove with a sorrowing marble figurative statue (left arm missing [seen in 2016]) leaning on an urn. There is a carved circular crest with family arms and motto above the figure and below is a marble panel inset with inscribed epitaph. Surrounding the monument is a low ashlar coped wall. The monument is sited within a steep-sided, wooded ravine beside the Kel Burn which passes over a 6 metre high waterfall into a natural pool below the monument.

### **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**

This commemorative monument in the neoclassical style by foremost Scottish architect of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, Robert Adam was erected in memory of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl, John Boyle by his widow in 1775 ‘at a cost of £300’ (BoS, p.397). It is depicted in its present location on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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 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.

The elongated trapezoid shape of the Monument to John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow is reminiscent of both the pyramid and the obelisk, architectural forms from the ancient world that were increasingly used for funerary and memorial works during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and reflected the contemporary neoclassical movement in architecture based on Roman and Ancient Greek precedents.

The monument to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl is located in a dramatic setting on the edge of wooded ravine beside a 15 metre high waterfall into a naturally carved pool. The picturesque setting of the monument relates to 18<sup>th</sup> century concepts of the 'sublime' which were concerned with the awe-inspiring and sometimes terror-inducing elemental force of nature. The *Statistical Account for Scotland* entry for Largs Parish, written circa 1794, clearly refers to this preoccupation in its description of the memorial, describing 'the steepness of the shade, the murmuring of the stream below, the height of the ground on each side, the depth of the precipices, the solemn darkness, so favourable to seriousness and meditation, all together form a scene peculiarly awful. All which is still heightened by the appearance of a monument of white marble[...]: Virtue, holding a lock of her hair in one hand; and in the other, an urn; over which she pensively, and mournfully inclines, lamenting the loss of one of her favourite sons' (SAS, p.361) The inscribed epitaph below the statue notes the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl's 'liberal sentiments of religion, unfettered by systems' and that the memorial was erected 'to animate his children to the imitation of his estimable qualities'.

The Ayrshire and Arran volume of *The Buildings of Scotland* notes that the figure and urn may have been carved for the Earl of Glasgow by Giuseppe Ceracchi, an accomplished Italian sculptor who may have carried out work for Robert Adam circa 1774-9.

The monument is an exceptional example of a commemorative monument in the neoclassical style by one of Scotland's foremost architects of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century period, Robert Adam. Examples of commemorative or funerary work by him are rare and significant. The picturesque setting of the monument is significant in that it accords with contemporary aesthetic theories regarding the sublime and the beautiful in nature that gathered momentum across Europe during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## **2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest**

### ***Interior***

n/a

### ***Plan form***

n/a

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

The monument is an outstanding commemorative monument by the foremost Scottish architect of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, Robert Adam, finely conceived and executed in polished ashlar and marble. Writing in *Architectural Heritage*, Volume 4 'Robert Adam' David King described the monument as perhaps the finest addition to the extensive list of works by Adam omitted from the Howard Colvin's seminal *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects* (1978).

Robert Adam (1728–92) was one of the most important British architects working in the neoclassical style. The son of the established Scottish architect William Adam, Robert established his own practice with his brother James and developed his own distinct style influenced by classical design inspired by the rules of Roman architecture.

### ***Setting***

The wooded setting of the monument which remains in its original position on the side of a ravine beside a waterfall, purposely chosen to evoke contemporary 18<sup>th</sup> century theories of the sublime and the beautiful in nature has not changed significantly from the date it was first erected. The monument is set within the boundary of the Kelburn Castle designed landscape (Kelburn - GDL 00233). Before 1750 it was laid out formally on axial avenues focusing views towards higher ground to the north. A change in the layout of the designed landscape occurred between 1750 and 1780, evolving toward a more natural, informal scene that accords with the picturesque waterfall and wooded ravine setting. The monument can be seen from the opposite side of the ravine with tree cover largely inhibiting wider views towards the monument adding to the sheltered, Arcadian atmosphere of the setting.

### ***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

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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 particular interest under a, b and d.

- a. The monument is an outstanding commemorative monument by foremost Scottish architect of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, Robert Adam, finely conceived and executed in polished ashlar and marble.
- b. Secluded by tree growth, the monument is sited close to the castle and contributes to a group of 18<sup>th</sup> century ancillary buildings and structures that collectively forming the largely intact historic core at Kelburn.
- d. The little altered design and immediate woodland setting of the monument, notwithstanding the damage to the statuary as of 2016, adds to its authenticity.

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

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The monument is an outstanding example of a commemorative monument in the neoclassical style by one of Scotland's foremost architects of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century period, Robert Adam. The picturesque setting of the monument is significant in that it accords with 18<sup>th</sup> century concepts regarding the sublime and the beautiful in nature that gathered momentum across Europe during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

In our current state of knowledge the Monument to John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow continues 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/>

As a rare example of a commemorative monument by one of Scotland's foremost architects of the later 18<sup>th</sup> century period, Robert Adam, the monument to John, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Glasgow is of national significance within its monument building type and is appropriately listed at category A.

## 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/206525>

### 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

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

King, D. (1993) *In Search Of Adam*, Architectural Heritage Vol. 4 – Robert Adam. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, p.93-5.

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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/>