



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

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## Designation Consultation

This designation consultation is open for comment until 11/09/2025

### Give us your comments

Historic Environment Scotland consult with those who are directly affected by designation proposals – including owners, occupiers and tenants – and with the planning authority.

We also welcome comments from interested persons or groups.

When we consult about a designation case we will have carried out research and set this out in a **report of handling**. This report is an assessment produced for consultation and it sets out our view, including a proposed decision. The assessment is not intended to be a definitive account or description of the site or place. We consider the comments received before we take a final decision.

We consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place.
- Whether sites or places meet the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

You can find more guidance on providing comments and how we handle your information on our [website](#).

Information on how we treat your personal data is available on our [Privacy Notice](#).

### How to make a comment

Please send your comments to [designationconsultations@hes.scot](mailto:designationconsultations@hes.scot) and provide us with the case reference. You can also make comments through our [portal](#) by clicking on the link 'email your comments about this case'.

**If you are the owner, occupier or tenant or the planning authority please email us at: [designations@hes.scot](mailto:designations@hes.scot).**

If you are unable to email your comments please phone us on 0131 668 8914.



## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300076342
<b>Name of Site</b>	Brunton Hall, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh
<b>Postcode (if any)</b>	EH21 6AF

<b>Local Authority</b>	East Lothian Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NT 34070 72820
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building
<b>Designation No. and category of listing (if any)</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	25/10/2024
<b>Decision Date</b>	Pending

## 1. Proposed decision

Proposed Statutory Listing Address	Brunton Hall Civic Centre complex, excluding interiors and lift addition to re-entrant angle on main (south) elevation, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh	New category of listing	B
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Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that the building meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. We are consulting on a proposal to list the building at category B. We will make a final decision based on a full understanding of the significance of the building and the development status following the conclusion of this consultation.

## 2. Designation and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

We initially reviewed the theatre, which forms part of the building, in our Theatres Listing Review in 2009-2011. We decided that as the theatre was built as part of a wider civic complex, that any future review for listing should take be considered within the wider context of civic buildings and not as part of the theatres project.

### 2.2 Development Proposals



We are aware of discussions taking place about the future of the building and site.

In March 2023 the Brunton Theatre within the Brunton Hall closed due to the presence of RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete). At the Brunton Hall, RAAC is predominantly found in areas of the flat roof structure. The building owners have taken steps to minimise public use whilst options for remediation are explored. Some remedial works have allowed the main ground floor circulation space and the municipal offices to remain in use, but we understand there has been a recommendation that all staff should be relocated.

A condition report was undertaken in Autumn 2024 and costed options for the future of the building were presented at the East Lothian Council meeting on 29/10/2024. The recommendation that was passed unanimously was to decommission the building, and as it is a Common Good Asset, for the Council to consult on the proposal to demolish it prior to a decision being taken. The Council expect to fully vacate the building by June 2025.

In this case we have decided to proceed with a consultation on a proposal to designate, which will inform both our understanding of significance and our understanding of the nature and status of proposals for the site. (See 3.3 Policy considerations).

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

We received a proposal to designate the Brunton Hall on 25/10/2024. Designations applications are published on our portal and will be available to view during the lifetime of the case and until 3 months after the case is closed.

The proposer provided the following information and views in their application:

- The history of the building
- Information about alterations to the building
- Information about the architect
- Information about the construction of the building
- Their views on special architectural and historic interest
- Information about the condition of the building
- Proposed future use of the building
- Information about development proposals

We informed the East Lothian Council, as both the owners and the planning authority, about the proposal to list the building. We met with the Council on site, and they provided the following comments:

- Information about their current plans for the building



- Information about changes to the building
- Information about the current condition of the building and subsequent access restrictions
- Views on the implications of listing
- A series of reports explaining their decision-making about the future of the building, including:
  - The Brunton Hall RAAC Update, Proposal for Closure and Alternative Service Delivery Arrangements (29 October 2024) at [https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17331/east\\_lothian\\_council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17331/east_lothian_council) (This was also shared by the Council)
  - Minutes of the Meeting of East Lothian Council (29 October 2024) at [https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17331/east\\_lothian\\_council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17331/east_lothian_council)
  - The Brunton Hall RAAC Options Appraisal (November 2024) at [https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17381/members\\_library\\_service](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/17381/members_library_service)

Our policy states that ‘our assessments may involve a site visit and will aim to make use of the best available evidence.’ (See [Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#), p.7.) We decide on a case by case basis whether a site visit is required to inform our assessments.

In this case we considered that a site visit was required to inform our assessment of the building’s special architectural or historic interest. We visited the Brunton Hall on 23/01/2025. We saw the exterior and some of the interior. We did not see the auditorium and multipurpose halls as access was restricted due to safety concerns relating to the presence of RAAC in these areas.

## 3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

We have found that the building meets the criteria for listing.

We carried out an assessment using the selection guidance to decide whether the site or place is of special architectural or historic interest. See **Annex A**.

The listing criteria and selection guidance for listed buildings are published in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019), Annex 2, pp. 11-13, <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

## 3.3 Policy considerations

Further information about how we list and about development proposals and designation is found in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, pp. 7-8. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>. Our policy states:



“We normally avoid intervening unnecessarily in the planning process or other regulatory processes where there are development proposals by adding a new designation. This may also extend to reviewing existing designations.

“We consider the individual circumstances of each case. In deciding whether to designate a site or place or amend an existing designation while there are ongoing development proposals, we will consider:

- the implications of designation on development proposals;
- the effect of the proposed development on the significance of the site or place; and
- the extent to which plans have been developed for the site or place – where these are particularly advanced, we will not normally list or schedule.

We understand that the Council are considering the future of the building and this site. In this case we have decided to proceed with this consultation on a proposal to list the building. We will make a final decision based on a full understanding of the development status and significance.

Further information about ‘how we list’ is found in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, p. 12. <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>. Our policy states:

“The extent to which a building or structure survives is a consideration when assessing it for listing. However, the present condition of the surviving fabric is not a factor when deciding whether it is of special architectural or historic interest.

“Factors such as financial issues, proposed future use, or a building no longer being in its original use will not be taken into account.”

## 4. Consultation

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### 4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 31/07/2025 to 11/09/2025.

We have consulted directly with the: owner and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling is published on our portal for comment from interested parties.

### 4.2 Designation consultations

*Comments we consider*



We will consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place and whether it meets the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

## *Comments we don't consider*

We do not consider comments and representations on non-relevant/non-material issues, such as:

- Economic considerations
- Abusive or offensive remarks
- Whether you personally like, or do not like, a proposal

Our video about consultations explains how you can comment on our designations decisions, and what we can and can't take into account when considering your views. <https://youtu.be/ZlqU51tRA6g>.

## 4.3 Consultation summary

N/A

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## Designations Service

Heritage Directorate  
Historic Environment Scotland

<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:designations@hes.scot">designations@hes.scot</a> , 0131 668 8914
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## ANNEX A

### Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

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#### 1. Building name

Brunton Hall, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh

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#### 2. Description and historical development

##### 2.1 Description

A civic centre complex in a Brutalist style, designed in 1964-66 by Sir William Kininmonth of Rowand Anderson Kininmonth & Paul for Musselburgh Town Council and built 1968-71 with a public sculpture by Tom Whalen.

The complex includes municipal offices, the former council chambers, magistrates court and registrar's office, a public theatre, bar and bistro, two large multi-purpose venue spaces and a tall chimney/former clock tower. The office parts of the building, to the east, remain in use but the public venue spaces are closed for safety reasons (2025). The building is set back from the road within a hard-landscaped site at the junction of two main streets in Musselburgh town centre. The entrance hall has multiple points of access, but the main access is from the south.

The plan form is an irregular, linear shape running east to west with two large, off-centre projections to the south, one of which extends over the main entrance on slender pilotis. The frame is largely reinforced concrete with lightweight aerated concrete roof panels (RAAC) and vertical outer wall panels of reinforced concrete, which are finished in roughly textured white aggregate. There is a large, gilded abstract sculpture by Tom Whalen on the west elevation, facing North High Street.

The different components of the building are formed from a series of rectangular blocks, each of varying heights and dimensions, and predominantly with chamfered corners. Some blocks are cantilevered, either carried on slender pilotis or areas of the exposed concrete frame. They are lit by long horizontal bands of tall, narrow windows that are deeply recessed and separated by projecting fins, which give the impression of slender pilotis inserted between thick horizontal floor plates. There are some areas of glazed curtain walling, largely to the ground floor public spaces and offices, which is set back, revealing the concrete frame. The rear (north) elevation has minimal glazing, except for the offices. A large number of the windows are later replacements but appear to be in a similar style to the original.

The boiler house (for both the building and the neighbouring social housing) to the far east end, has sculptural external concrete steps to the north and south, leading to the cantilevered block above. The auditorium, to the far west end, has a late-20<sup>th</sup>





century flytower addition and there is a lift addition to the re-entrant angle on the south elevation.

There is tall freestanding chimney to the immediate south that has the same chamfered corners and textured concrete panels as the main blocks. It originally also functioned as a clock tower but the clock has been replaced with telecommunications equipment.

Apart from the paving to the main entrance, the complex is slightly elevated from street level and is accessed via steps, walkways and platforms. These areas of hard landscaping form part of the original designs and are all faced in textured concrete panels that match the walls of the main building. The building, along with these associated decks and entrance steps, sit on a low course of dark brown brick, which is recessed to create a shadow gap around the base of the complex.

The interior (seen in 2025) comprises a large entrance concourse with a multipurpose hall, a bar and a function hall above, a theatre to the west end, and municipal rooms and offices to the east end. The internal layout has remained relatively unchanged but the interior has been substantially refurbished. A carved sandstone column, which was unveiled by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother at the formal opening, remains within the entrance concourse. The waffle ceiling remains within the entrance hall and there is some evidence of beech veneer to some of the office circulation spaces but much of the decorative detailing dates to the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries (see 3.1.1. Design).

## 2.2 Historical development

The Brunton Memorial Hall was named in honour of John D. Brunton, son of the founder of the Brunton Wireworks in Musselburgh, who died in 1951 leaving a bequest of £700,000 to the people of the town. He wished the money to be used to provide a hall for community entertainment and other purposes. Musselburgh Town Council added further money to create a grander scheme which allowed them to bring their administrative offices and a new burgh court together in one building (The Scotsman, 1971).

William Kininmonth (1904-88), partner of Rowand Anderson Kininmonth and Paul architects, was commissioned from a shortlist of three for the design of the building in October 1964 (*The Builder*) and sketch plans were approved two years later (The Scotsman, 1971). In 1966 a large wedge-shaped plot, the former 'Hayweights' site, was purchased and cleared at the junction between North High Street and Bridge Street, which is shown on the National Grid Map of 1968. It previously contained a number of large number of properties that were in poor condition (Opening Ceremony Brochure, 1971).

Construction began in January 1968 and was completed in November 1970. The area was replanned as part of the works - a new road was created to connect North High Street and Bridge Street (Ladywell Way) and the area to the north side was





pedestrianised (The Scotsman, 1971). The Brunton Hall was built during a period of considerable civic development in the town, which included a new sports pavilion at Fisherrow and a large number social and private housing schemes.

The building was officially opened on 23 June 1971 by Her Majesty The Queen Mother. The brochure which accompanied the opening ceremony recorded that the public part of the building contained a theatre with 350 seats and backstage dressing rooms, two venue halls, a lounge area, exhibition space within the entrance concourse, and a bar and a bistro. The municipal parts housed various council offices including the Registrar's office and marriage rooms, as well as the Town Council Chambers, a public gallery, members' lounge committee room, and the new Burgh Police Court with ante-rooms and cells for the prisoners.

In 1996 the theatre underwent significant alterations to upgrade its facilities. Changes included the addition of a flytower and link block, as well as a new restaurant with decorative glasswork by Deborah Campbell. Around this time the entrance hall was refurbished. There were further major alterations costing £3.2m in 2011. These included the complete refurbishment of the auditorium, the Large Hall and the bar/lounge area on the first floor, the installation of new windows, and a new lift addition to the re-entrant angle of the stair tower on the south elevation.

The public areas of the building closed in March 2023 due to issues surrounding the RAAC roof panels. The Council offices remain in use (June 2025) but the building is due to be vacated.

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### 3. Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

To be listed a building must be of 'special architectural or historic interest' as set out in the [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#). To decide if a building is of special interest for listing we assess its cultural significance using selection guidance which has two main headings – architectural interest and historic interest (see Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, 2019, Annex 2, pp. 11-13).

The selection guidance provides a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions. The special architectural or historic interest of a building can be demonstrated in one or more of the following ways.

#### 3.1 Architectural interest

The architectural interest of a building may include its design, designer, interior, plan form, materials, regional traditions, and setting and the extent to which these characteristics survive. These factors are grouped under two headings:

##### 3.1.1 Design



The Brunton Hall is a high quality and carefully articulated example of a large civic complex and arts venue, and its scale, complexity and ambition were unusual for a smaller Scottish burgh at this time. The building retains much of its early form and character, and its design is representative of the former Town Council's outward-looking vision of modernity during this period of large-scale redevelopment and expansion.

The building is designed in a Late Modernist style that shows elements of Brutalism. It is a major example for its date and type that incorporates the key architectural trends of the period.

The building's various functions are expressed through the overall composition and the arrangement of the plan form, with use of height, volume and massing to define and differentiate between the various components.

The interplay of the different blocks, combined with the use of chamfered angles, gives a sense of variation that breaks down the massing of this large building and creates a series of public spaces outside the different entrances. This blurring between public and private, and internal and external spaces was a key feature of civic centre design, as part of the post-war concept that cities and towns should be open, democratic and available to all.

Other characteristics of the Brutalist style/brutalism include the consistent and obvious use of standardised modern building components (in glass and reinforced concrete), the 'honesty' of the materials and the exposed parts of the structure, as well as the reduction of superfluous ornament. There is also a bold use of horizontal massing, alleviated by thin, vertical forms (such as the pilotis, clock tower and window fins), which creates a visual variety and gives a sense of lightness to the building. This is further achieved by the use of a recessed base course across the whole of the building, as well as its various platforms and entrance steps, which creates the impression that the building is floating.

The composition, together with a range of distinctive architectural details, give the building a distinctly individual style while having the effect of reducing its apparent scale and mass. These include the large piece of public sculpture on the west elevation, by the Scottish artist and sculptor Tom Whalen (1903-1975), and the quality of the material finishes, such as the large stones in the concrete panels that add texture to the external walls and catch the light.

The building is low in height, spreading out towards to the margins of the site and can be accessed via multiple entrances. Combined with the variations across each of the elevations, this gives the building a welcoming, human scale that conveys its civic importance without overshadowing the surrounding buildings.

The free-standing clock tower, using the same material finish as the main building, is an integral feature of the design both architecturally and symbolically. The inclusion



of a clock tower has been a device used historically at tollbooths and town halls, signifying the building as a centre of civic and administrative life. It is both functional and a representation of civil order and continuity.

The theatre is a good representative example of the design philosophy of 1970s theatres, with a thrust stage allowing an uninterrupted view of the stage and providing closer link between the performers and the audience. However, the key interiors of the building, including the theatre, have been substantially refurbished and original fixtures and fittings have been largely removed. The layout and circulation between the various components remains largely unaltered but the original character of these spaces has been substantially altered.

The designer of the Brunton Hall, Sir William Kininmonth (1904-1988), was a key figure in developing some of Scotland's most iconic modern buildings during the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Notable examples of Kininmonth's work include the Renfrew Airport (1954, demolished), Pollock Halls (1952-64 listed category A, ref: LB50187), Craigsbank Church (1964-66, listed at category A, ref: LB48977), which shows the influence of Brutalist thinking, and the Scottish Provident Building (1961-75, demolished), all in Edinburgh.

The Brunton Hall has been subject to a number of later interventions, which are outlined under Historical Development (Section 2.2), but the level of architectural authenticity is high (with the exception of the interior, which is proposed to be excluded from the listing). The building largely retains its original form, layout and materials, and much of the early character remains evident across the complex.

### 3.1.2 Setting

The setting together with the surrounding urban fabric contributes to our understanding of the historic function of the Brunton Hall as an ambitious post-war building of local administration and public service at the heart of Musselburgh.

Brunton Hall is one of Musselburgh's most prominent architectural landmarks. It occupies a large area of ground, just to the west of the town centre, on the north side of what was the main route from Edinburgh to London. The large, sprawling scale of its plan form and its horizontal and vertical massing, combined with the light-coloured materials, are all factors that add to its overall prominence. The oversized gilded piece of public art/sculpture on the west elevation is a particularly distinctive feature, which terminates the view from the harbour, eastwards along North High Street to the River Esk.

The complex is designed to be viewed largely in the round, with architectural interest evident at every elevation. There is some exception to the north elevation, which is plainer in terms of architectural treatment.

Located just to the west of the conservation area, which covers the historic core of the town, in an area known as Fisherrow, the immediate setting of the Brunton Hall



largely comprises rows of two storey domestic dwellings from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A number of these are listed at category B and C, and were historically converted to commercial uses at ground floor level.

To lessen the scale of the building within this historic setting each elevation is not visible in its entirety. This is achieved by the plan of the building, which follows the linear form of North High Street, and where the road diverges by 45 degrees into Bridge Street, the building steps in and out at various points. Combined with the use of chamfered angles, this effectively breaks up the bulk of the building's form and creates a dynamic visual interest, with different parts of the building being revealed as you moved around it.

The civic complex forms part of a wider programme of regenerative urban planning for Musselburgh during the 1960s and 70s. This plan included a new sports pavilion at Fisherrow and a large number social and private housing schemes, such as the flatted developments on Beach Lane to the north. The building is a key component within this setting by virtue of its scale and its design which exploits the angle of adjacent road junction. There has been little alteration to the immediate setting within this site itself since the completion of the complex in 1971.

## 3.2 Historic interest

Historic interest is in such things as a building's age, rarity, social historical interest and associations with people or events that have had a significant impact on Scotland's cultural heritage. Historic interest is assessed under three headings:

### 3.2.1 Age and rarity

The term 'civic centre' emerged in the inter-war period for new purpose-built civic complexes within towns and cities which combine municipal offices with other public buildings. The increase in buildings for civic administrative and public service in towns and cities was the result of important changes in local government supported by legislative change.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1947 divided local government structure into centralised county and burgh administrative areas, while the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1947 set the foundations of modern town and country planning. These Acts significantly reduced the number of individual planning authorities across Scotland and gave them wide-ranging powers, especially in the acquisition and development of land. In the years after the Second World War, as the newly-formed local authorities were charged with the task of rebuilding and regenerating their town centres, they became important patrons of new architecture. The era was characterised by an unprecedented level of collaboration between architects, town planners, civil servants and developers across the public and private sectors.



Each local authority created new administrative centres in the 1960s and 70s and these types of developments are common to every large urban centre in Scotland. The degree of architectural quality and size depended on local circumstances. The larger purpose-built civic developments during this period were designed to bring together a range of municipal functions. This gave architects the opportunity to conceive carefully grouped buildings and spaces, in an integrated and architecturally inventive way, for civic administration and public amenity. These specialised buildings were the modern equivalent to the great city chambers and town halls built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Many major civic centres and government administration buildings built between 1948 and 1980 have been demolished as Scottish local authorities adopt decentralised and geographically dispersed models of local governance (2025). Only a small number of architecturally distinctive post-war civic administrative centres in Scotland, identified as major public commissions of the period, are known to retain their architectural interest (2025). While civic buildings in general are not rare, the degree of architectural interest and the extent to which the buildings survive as originally designed, will be of interest for listing.

Among the best of this new wave of civic architecture in Scotland is the Lanark County Buildings in Hamilton (1959-64, listed at category A, LB34472) which was modelled on the United Nations building (1952) in New York. Another Modernist set-piece was St Nicholas House in Aberdeen (demolished, 2017), the design of which was influenced by the Lever Building (1952) in New York. Similar largely intact sites with special architectural interest include the Motherwell Civic Centre (1961-63) by Peter L. A. Williams of Wylie, Shanks and Partners which is listed at category B (LB52545) and is equivalent in scale and ambition to the Brunton Hall. Smaller-scale administrative centres of the period that were built to a high specification include council headquarter buildings in Newton St Boswells in the Scottish Borders by Peter Womersley, the council offices in Stornoway, Western Isles and the civic centre addition to Ardrossan Town Hall (listed category B, ref: LB21267).

Elsewhere in Scotland, this type of building has been found to be extensively altered. One of the more complex sites, bringing together a range of functions, was Paisley Civic Centre (1963-69 by Hutchison, Locke and Monk). It has been substantially remodelled and partly demolished in recent years. Another large contemporary project was Cumbernauld New Town Centre Phase One (1963-67 by Geoffrey Copcutt). This was a concrete megastructure (almost a town in itself) with a motorway running through the centre. It received international recognition for its radical vision of catering to the civic requirements of its citizens in a new way. While Town Centre Phase One retains elements of structural and architectural interest in parts, it was never completed as initially intended and has since been remodelled.

Within the context of this building type, Brunton Hall is distinguished as a notable purpose-built example of civic architecture in Scotland, strongly influenced by key





design principles of the European Modern Movement and the Brutalist style. It is one of a very small number of major civic commissions of architectural distinction in Scotland which survive largely intact. It is also one of the few remaining examples that incorporated a civic theatre, something that was usually provided in larger-scale civic centres that were built to serve a wider population.

### 3.2.2 Social historical interest

Social historical interest is the way a building contributes to our understanding of how people lived in the past, and how our social and economic history is shown in a building and/or in its setting.

The Brunton Hall was a key component of Musselburgh's post-war building programme.

The decision to build a civic centre in Musselburgh aligned with a wider national response in the post-war period to building and planning for centralised local government and the emergent welfare state. The construction of the civic centre was completed shortly before the legislative shift towards more dispersed models of local government and the establishment of district and regional councils in the mid 1970s.

During the 1960s, Musselburgh underwent significant investment and development, particularly the construction of new housing schemes that resulted from slum clearances within the town itself, as well as new industrial developments at Dunbar and Cockenzie and the growth of its popularity as a dormitory town for commuters to Edinburgh.

Within this context, the Brunton Hall is a central component of the town's post-war building programme, evidencing a wide range of historical interest in terms of the economic, social and political context of its time.

Since opening, the complex has been an important centre of civic administration as well as a popular community hub and arts venue. It was notably the only purpose-built theatre in East Lothian (Fourth Statistical Account, Musselburgh, 2003-2009) - Musselburgh was transferred from Midlothian County Council to East Lothian District Council in 1975 as part of the wider restructuring of local government.

### 3.2.3 Association with people or events of national importance

There is no association with a person or event of national importance.

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## 4. Summary of assessment

The Brunton Hall meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest for the following reasons:



- As a notable example of civic architecture of the post-war period in Scotland, which survives largely unaltered in terms of its external appearance and plan form.
- For its carefully considered design, high level of material quality, and complex composition and plan-form, by a renowned Scottish architect and proponent of modern architecture in Scotland.
- As a landmark civic building in Musselburgh that integrates well with the surrounding streetscape in terms of its scale, materials and plan form. It makes an important contribution to the character of the town centre and groups well with other architecturally and historic buildings.
- The deterioration of the concrete roof and wall panels has not adversely affected the historic character and legibility of the building. The condition of the surviving fabric is not a factor when deciding whether a building is of special architectural or historic interest.
- Civic centres are not a common building type - it is one of a very small number of examples in Scotland that are of architectural significance and survive with much of their early character and form intact.
- For its cultural contribution to our understanding of civic life, society and local governance in Scotland in the 20th century.

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: interiors and lift addition to re-entrant angle on main (south) elevation.

## 5. Category of listing

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Once a building is found to be of special architectural or historic interest, it is then classified under one of three categories (A, B or C) according to its relative importance. While the listing itself has legal weight and gives statutory protection, the categories have no legal status and are advisory. They affect how a building is managed in the planning system.

Category definitions are found at Annex 2 of Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019) <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

### 5.1 Level of importance

The Brunton Hall's level of importance is category B.

Buildings listed at category B are defined as 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are major examples of a period, style or type.

Taking into account the design interest, the rarity of the building type and the level of alteration, category B is considered to be the most appropriate level of listing.





## 6. Legal exclusions

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In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: interiors and lift addition to re-entrant angle on main (south) elevation.

The interiors have been substantially refurbished, particularly the public spaces. Much of the fixtures, fittings and decorative detailing dates to the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The interiors have no special interest in listing terms.

## 7. Other Information

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N/A

## 8. References

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UID Place Reference: 382013

### Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1853, published 1853) Musselburgh – Sheet 08. 6 inches to the mile. Town Plans of Scotland. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

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## Other Information

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## 9. Images

Images proposed for inclusion in online Listed Building Record if building becomes listed or if an existing listed building record is amended or removed.



**Type:** Standard.

**Title:** Brunton Hall, principal elevation, looking northeast.

**Alternative Text:** Brunton Hall, principal elevation, looking northeast, during daytime, on cloudy day.

**Date taken:** 23/01/2025

**Photographer:** HES

**Copyright:** © Historic Environment Scotland



**Type:** Standard.

**Title:** Brunton Hall, detail of principal elevation at main entrance, looking north.

**Alternative Text:** Brunton Hall, detail of principal elevation at main entrance, looking north, during daytime, on cloudy day.

**Date taken:** 23/01/2025

**Photographer:** HES

**Copyright:** © Historic Environment Scotland.

Images not for inclusion in online Listed Building Record.





Brunton Hall, principal south elevation looking north (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, west part of south elevation looking northeast (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, main entrance on south elevation looking west (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, detail of principal south elevation looking northwest (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, detail of abstract wall sculpture on west elevation (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, detail of walling on west elevation (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, chimney/former clock tower looking north (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, detail of rear entrance on north elevation (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, east and north elevations looking southwest (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, north elevation looking southwest (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland





Brunton Hall, entrance hall looking southeast (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, entrance hall, showing waffle ceiling detail (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, entrance to administrative offices (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland



Brunton Hall, beech veneer to corridors of administrative offices (23/01/2025) © Historic Environment Scotland

## 10. Indicative Map

A map of the proposed listed building is attached separately.