



This designation consultation is open for comment until 22/10/2025

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 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.

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



Report of Handling Case information

Case ID	300074141
Name of Site	Dalmuir Park drinking fountain, Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire
Postcode (if any)	

Local Authority	West Dunbartonshire
National Grid Reference	NS 48163 71645
Designation Type	Listed Building
Designation No. and category of listing (if any)	
Case Type	Designation

Received/Start Date	02/07/2024
Decision Date	Pending

1. Proposed decision

Proposed Statutory Listing Address	Drinking Fountain, Dalmuir Park, Clydebank	New category of listing	B
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Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that the Dalmuir Park drinking fountain meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. The proposed decision is to list the building at category B.

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

We are not aware of any previous assessment of the fountain for listing.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.



3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

We received a proposal to designate Dalmuir Park drinking fountain on 02/07/24. (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 applicant provided the following information and views in their application:

- The history of the building
- Information about alterations to the building
- Information about the architect/designer
- Their views on special architectural and historic interest
- Information about the condition of the building

We informed the planning authority at West Dunbartonshire about the proposal to list the building.

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 we have sufficient information to inform our assessment of the building’s special architectural or historic interest. The present assessment is desk-based, using available information and has included reference to recent photographs.

3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

We have found that the building (Dalmuir Park drinking fountain) does meet the criteria for listing.

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

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>.



3.2.1 Description

A freestanding cast-iron drinking fountain, dated 1907 and manufactured by Walter Macfarlane and Company of the Saracen Foundry in Glasgow. The fountain is set on an octagonal stone plinth and enclosed within an elaborate domed cast-iron canopy on columns. The fountain is painted, and the ornament is broadly naturalistic in character. It is no longer in use as a water fountain (2025) and is located on the southwest footpath of Dalmuir Park, in the Dalmuir area to the northwest of Clydebank.

The fountain is a four-sided design. The pedestal has four decorative legs with lion heads and paws, supporting a quatrefoil shaped fountain basin decorated with foliate and floral relief. The basin is topped with a splayed pedestal, decorated with foliage and herons, and a finial from which cast iron drinking cups were formerly suspended from chains (no longer present). The open filigree canopy has cusped arches with scalloped edges and the roundels above have decorative cartouches with alternating swan and heron motifs. A further cartouche depicts the Burgh of Clydebank coat of arms. The canopy's ribbed dome is of traceried metal with floral designs and is surmounted by an eagle finial. The canopy is supported by eight fluted columns with faceted capitals that feature heavily foliated friezes. Inside the canopy, statues of owls and swans surmount the capitals.

3.2.2 Historical background

The fountain was built in the McFarlane's Saracen Foundry in Possilpark, Glasgow and is first shown on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1914, published 1918). It was installed in 1907, in the newly established Dalmuir Park as a gift from the ex-Provost of Clydebank, Samuel Leckie.

Public water fountains became increasingly common throughout Britain from the mid-19th century onwards as a means of providing readily accessible clean drinking water, an amenity that was not formerly easily obtainable. A great number of commemorative public monuments were erected soon after Queen Victoria's death, and fountains became popular memorials, many of which were erected by public subscription. Drinking fountains also became a common feature of parks and town squares during the late-Victorian and Edwardian periods.

In December 1906 the *Daily Record* recorded that Clydebank Town Council accepted an ornamental drinking fountain as a gift from ex-Provost Samuel Leckie. The chosen site was within a new public park that was formerly part of the Dalmuir House landscape (demolished in 1929) and the associated Dalmuir Paper Mill complex. The town council purchased the land in 1906 for £5,000. In addition to the fountain, a cast iron bandstand manufactured by the Lion Foundry Co Ltd, was also donated to the new park. The bandstand was relocated to Whitecrook Park in 1935, and to its present site at Three Queens Square, Clydebank, in 1983.



The fountain and canopy castings were designed in the late 19th century and appear together as pattern reference no.20 in the Macfarlane and Son 6th edition catalogue, published in 1890 (p.413). The fountain's standard design included taps which were activated by pushing the drinking cups against a small lever. It is not known if the drinking cups shown in the catalogue were originally part of the fountain in Dalmeir Park but they are no longer present. The canopy advertisement notes that all shields and inscriptions are customisable and that 'any of the fountains can be supplied with Dog Trough or with lamp on top'.

The fountain is no longer in use, but its overall form has remained largely unchanged since it was built. The structure was restored in 2012 as part of a wider scheme funded by West Dunbartonshire Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, which also involved the restoration of the park's landscaping and Edwardian fences.

3.2.3 Architectural or historic interest

Architectural interest

The fountain is a major example of a public drinking fountain from the Edwardian period. The ornate design is technically detailed and demonstrates high quality materials and craftsmanship. It is casting number 20 in the Macfarlane and Co. design catalogue, which was the largest and most elaborate of the free-standing canopied fountains that the company produced from the late 19th century into the earlier part of the 20th century. Although mass produced, the fountains could be customised with different motifs. In this case, symbolic natural elements relating to water, such as water lily leaves and herons standing in a reed bed, were chosen to reflect its setting within Dalmeir Park.

The Scottish Iron industry had been flourishing since the late 18th century and after the mid 19th century, Scotland became a global frontrunner in its manufacture. This cast-iron fountain at Dalmeir Park was produced by the renowned iron foundry of Walter Macfarlane and Company. The company operated from the Saracen Foundry, which opened in Glasgow around 1850. Walter Macfarlane was one of the major suppliers in the Scottish ironwork industry in the 19th and 20th centuries, and they exported their decorative designs across the British Empire and the world. Their 6th edition catalogue (1890: pp. 401-599) demonstrates the variety and breadth of products that the firm designed and produced. It includes products from cast iron gutters to ornate gates, lamps, railings, and civic structures such as bandstands and fountains. The company closed in 1967.

The fountain is no longer connected to a water supply and some elements have been removed, including the tap and drinking cups. However, changes such as these are not uncommon for former civic fountains that have survived as decorative street furniture. Overall, it is a large-scale and ornate example of a freestanding fountain that remains largely complete and was designed by an internationally renowned Scottish iron foundry.



The fountain is situated in a prominent location within Dalmuir Park, which has mostly retained its Edwardian layout and landscaping. The setting is typical of a public fountain of this date and type and the fountain makes an important contribution to the historic character of the park. It remains in its original position, which is increasingly uncommon for street furniture of this period.

Historic interest

Public water fountains were installed from the mid-19th century to the earlier 20th century to provide fresh drinking water to both people and animals. The majority were small pillar type or wall mounted designs but some were more elaborate and could be contained within a decorative canopy. The fountain in Dalmuir park dates from a time when street furniture was often used to as a key feature of public squares and parks, and was often used to commemorate public events or people.

The number of new public fountains dropped dramatically in the earlier 20th century following the introduction of piped water to most housing. Many cast iron fountains were removed or destroyed in the mid and later 20th century. Some were removed and the cast iron repurposed as part of the war effort in the 1940s. Others have been removed or moved as part of town planning and changes to road layouts. Decorative cast iron fountains are subsequently relatively rare, and particularly those that remain in their original location.

The Scottish Ironwork Foundation records that there are only 9 other known examples of Macfarlane and Co.'s pattern no.20 fountain now surviving worldwide. Other examples in Scotland include the Saltoun fountain in Fraserburgh (listed at category B, ref: LB31970), the Hawkhead fountain in Paisely (not listed), the Martin fountain in Glasgow Green (listed at category B, ref: LB33839) and the Jubilee Fountain in Overtoun Park, Rutherglen (listed category B, ref: LB33571).

The fountain in Dalmuir Park is a rare example of its type in Scotland and worldwide, and one of only a small number to survive in their original location.

The fountain has social historic interest as an early 20th century civic structure that provided drinking water to improve public health. Combined with its location within a public park, it is representative of Edwardian philanthropy and ethos for social improvement through recreation and the provision of civic amenities.

There are no known close historical associations to figures or events of national significance.

3.2.4 Summary of assessment

We have found that the Dalmuir Park Drinking Fountain meets the criteria for listing for the following reasons:



- The design is highly decorative and was manufactured by an internationally renowned Scottish ironworks.
- It has not been substantially altered since its installation.
- It remains in its original location, within an Edwardian public park.
- It is a major example for its date and type, and is one of a very small number of this casting pattern to survive worldwide.
- There is social historic interest as a highly decorative example of a civic amenity structure from the early 20th century.

3.3 Category of listing

Taking into account the design interest, lack of alteration and the rarity of other surviving examples of this date and type, category B is considered to be the most appropriate level of listing.

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

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

3.4 References

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1914, published 1918) (Dunbartonshire, nXXIII.10). 25 inches to the mile. 2nd Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1937, published 1939) (Dunbartonshire, nXXIII.10). 25 inches to the mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed sources

Dobraszczyk, P. (2018) Ornament and Purity: Macfarlane's Drinking Fountains in *Victorian Review*, Vol. 44, pp.17-20.

Historic Scotland (2009). Technical Reference Series MacFarlane's Castings. Vol 2.

Edinburgh: Historic Scotland.

<https://www.engineshed.scot/publications/publication/?publicationId=65b5d08a-5441-4492-869e-a5bb01086f02>



Macfarlane, W. (1890) *Illustrated Catalogue of Macfarlane's Castings* 6th edition Vol 2, Glasgow: Walter Macfarlane & Co. pp. 411-413 Available at <https://archive.org/details/waltermacfarlaneco.vol21890s>

The Daily Record (December 1906) p.6 at <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000728/19061212/006/0006>

Websites

West Dunbartonshire Council, *History of Dalmuir Park* at <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/leisure-parks-events/parks-and-greenspaces/parks/dalmuir-park/dalmuir-park-restoration-project/history-of-dalmuir-park/> [accessed 28/07/2025].

West Dunbartonshire Council, *Dalmuir Park Restoration Project* at <https://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/leisure-parks-events/parks-and-greenspaces/parks/dalmuir-park/dalmuir-park-restoration-project/about-the-project/> [accessed 28/07/2025].

Scottish Ironworks Foundation at <https://ironworks.scran.ac.uk/?PHPSESSID=5ijb48b8bt32lj9g5u69irbf6> [accessed 28/07/2025].

3.7 Indicative Map

A map of the proposed listed building is attached separately.

4. Consultation

4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 01/10/2025 to 22/10/2025.

We have consulted directly with the owners 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

Designations Service

Heritage Directorate

Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	designations@hes.scot 0131 668 8914
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