

Kilchurn Castle:

Built in the mid 15th century by the Campbells, and had the earliest Barrack block in Europe – 1670. Derelict by the 1770's, and in 1773 was dismantled, probably for building materials. There is a Sandby drawing of it with the roof still on. It is a very photogenic castle, one of the best. More missing here than at Tioram – a whole corner, therefore there is not the structural evidence at Hilchurn that there is at Tioram. However, the documentary evidence does support it. It is a supreme example of an aesthetic ruin in the landscape, Tioram is not as good. To reroof Kilchurn would change the skyline completely. It is very much a monument in the public domain, like Tioram but is in Guardianship. Both Tioram and Kilchurn are fantastic castles on good settings, although at Kilchurn the aesthetic argument is stronger rather than the historical. Bought recently by a local man who wishes to secure its future as a public ruin.

Duart Castle

Similar period to Tioram, taken over by the Macleans in 14th century, then acquired by the Campbells in 1674. Then used as a garrison (campbells were government supporters) by 1748 it was derelict and partly roofless. In 1911 the MacLeans bought it back and rebuilt it with a fair amount of conjecture and deliberate alteration. It does look pretty but is really now an Edwardian castle building. SMC for this would not be given nowadays.

Eilean Donan castle

Later in period and completely fictitious reconstruction. No consent would be given now. Recently scheduled area, but excluded the castle.

Ballone Castle

Was scheduled, and there was good documentary evidence for how it was, in the form of photos or drawings, and what was on site. The collapses were relatively recent – in last 20 years or so. Ballone had no significance as a ruin per se, ie it had no prestige as a ruin in the landscape, and no historical significance as a ruin. Sections were approaching catastrophic collapse so there was more reason to allow a reconstruction, and there was a sense of urgency. It was not of the same historical significance as Tioram, it dated to the mid 16th century, and was of the MacKenzies. A fine post reformation house, not a medieval stronghold.

Kinlochaline Castle

A Listed MacLean building. Beseiged in 1644 and 1679, roofless by 1730. Re-roofed in the 1890's and mucked around Fell into disrepair after the 1890's. The alterations actually enhanced the building – sorting out a derelict metal roof and the unfortunate wallhead. Did have a pedigree as a ruin in the landscape – painted prior to 1890 alterations. Never had public access, and no major historical associations