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## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300035998
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/CA/20
<b>Name of Site</b>	Former Glentana Mill, West Stirling Street, Alva
<b>Postcode (if any)</b>	FK12 5EN

<b>Local Authority</b>	Clackmannanshire Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NS 87813 97062
<b>Designation Type</b>	No designation
<b>Designation No. and category of listing (if any)</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	04/03/2019
<b>Decision Date</b>	28/08/2019

## 1. Decision

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An assessment using the selection guidance shows that Glentana Mill does not meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. The decision is not to list the building.

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

Glentana Mill has not previously been designated. The building was considered for listing in 2010 and at that time it was not found to meet the criteria for listing.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals at this time (2019). The building is currently unoccupied.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

A proposal to designate Glentana Mill was received on 04/03/2019.

Glentana Mill was visited on 02/04/2019. The exterior and most of the interior was seen. The basement was not seen.

### 3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

Glentana Mill was found to not meet the criteria for listing.

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

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## ANNEX A

### Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

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#### 1. Building name

Former Glentana Mill, West Stirling Street, Alva

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#### 2. Description and historical development

##### 2.1 Description

Glentana Mill consists of a 14-bay, single-storey and semi-basement, former powerloom shed dating from around 1873-74 and a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century 12-bay, single-storey range attached to the east. The building fronts West Stirling Street, the main road through Alva and is built on a slight incline.

The street (south) elevation of the former powerloom shed is constructed in polychrome red brick with contrasting yellow glazed-bricks around the recessed windows, quoins, string course above the basement and dentilled corbelling below the eaves. Some of the basement openings are now blocked up. The window openings in the west elevation are round-arched.

The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century east range is constructed in plainer polychrome brickwork with concrete cills and lintels. The window openings are wider. Three entrances have been added to the street elevation replacing the window openings. There are four entrance doors at the rear, all with access ramps and stairs in a mixture of materials and styles. There are later canopies at the rear and later brickwork around the openings.

The windows are a mixture of timber and metal in various glazing patterns. There are rectangular, nine-pane timber windows in the powerloom shed with plain stone cills, some with window boxes attached. The windows in the later range are metal with various glazing patterns. The roof of the former powerloom is M-shaped and slated, and the west roof pitch is piended. The later addition to the east has a flat-roof.

The interior (seen in 2019) has been subdivided and converted into three retail spaces. There are decorative iron columns in the powerloom shed along the centre supporting an open roof-frame. There is a wide brick archway between the earlier and later sections of the mill building.

At the entrance to the former mill site are a pair of polychrome brick gatepiers with pyramidal sandstone caps and later metal gates. The rear of the former mill site is now a car park.

##### 2.2 Historical development

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

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Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**  
VAT Number: **GB 221 8680 15**

The former powerloom shed of Glentana Mill (originally known as the Dalmore Works) dates to around 1873 (*The Buildings of Scotland*, p.183). It was extended to the east in 1887, probably to designs by Robert Baldie of Stirling (Swan, p.74). The mill was built for Wilson Brothers and it specialised in the production of shawls, tweeds and tailor-made ladies wear (JISC Archives Hub).

The *Woollen Mill Buildings in the Hillfoots Area* reproduces an artist's impression of an engraving of Glentana Mill (Park, p.77). This shows the former mill was a larger complex with a brick chimney, weaving sheds and engine house to the rear. The front range is shown as two-storey and around 40-bays wide. This image may be a little exaggerated in size as the building's current footprint appears to be roughly the same as that shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (revised 1899, published 1900).

Glentana Mill was partly rebuilt in 1895 after a storm had damaged the front section, and there were further additions in 1912 and 1916. In 1941 a fire destroyed the main two-storey mill building, built in 1887 and which was immediately to the east of the powerloom shed. It was rebuilt as a single-storey building with a flat roof, occupying roughly the same footprint as the previous mill building.

The mill was driven by overhead shafts and powered by a steam engine. It was coal-fired until the late 1960s and later converted to oil (at which time the chimney was reduced in height).

In 1961 Wilson Brothers (Alva) Ltd formed a joint company called Glentana Mills Ltd with a Glasgow-based scarf making firm, McBean and Bishop. Wilson Brothers (Alva) Ltd were taken over by Pringles of Inverness in 1967. Glentana Mill remained in industrial use until around 1979, producing scarves, rugs and blankets in mohair, wool and cashmere.

Around 1993 the associated mill buildings and chimney were demolished, and replaced by a carpark, play area and garden (Clackmannanshire Planning Portal). The powerloom shed was converted into the Mill Trail Visitor Centre in around 1994 and in around 2000 the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century section of the building was converted for use as a coffee shop, bike shop and a clothing and textile shop. The building has been vacant since the early 2010s.

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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 remaining mill building of the former Glentana Mill is multi-phase. The powerloom shed retains some typical details of industrial buildings from this date, particularly its recessed windows and basement openings with polychrome detailing, round-arched windows to the west elevation, an M-shaped roof and dentiled corbels below the roof eaves. The polychrome brickwork is striking, but it is characteristic of industrial buildings of this date.

The 1887 extension (destroyed by fire in 1941) may have been designed by Robert Baldie (1824-1890) because architectural drawings of the Dalmore Works, dated 1887, had the business address of Baldie on them (Park, pp.76-87). The Dictionary of Scottish Architects notes Baldie was primarily known for designing churches.

The former powerloom shed and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century building of Glentana Mill are a fragment of a much larger former mill complex. The section that remains has a long-rectangular footprint, which is typical for its building type. Its conversion to a visitor centre and retail space has remodelled the interior and there is now a lack of interior fixtures and fittings. There are some interior features surviving in the powerloom shed such as an archway, and iron columns supporting the M-shaped roof. However, these are typical structural features of an industrial building and most of the decorative scheme dates from the 1990s and 2000s. The overall footprint of the former mill has been largely lost by the demolition of its ancillary buildings.

The powerloom shed continues to read as an industrial building with its large windows and polychrome brick construction. The use of polychrome brick is common to industrial buildings of the later-19<sup>th</sup> century and was used locally at other mills including the former Hayford Mills at Cambusbarron and the Ochilvale Mill in Alva (now demolished). Glentana Mill is typical for an industrial building of this date and there is no known technological excellence in its design or construction.

The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century section to the east is much plainer and is not of special architectural interest. The exterior of the building has been altered by the addition of later entrances at the front and rear and small additions, such as later brick retaining walls, to the rear.

#### **3.1.2 Setting**

Glentana Mill is located at the western end of the town of Alva in front of the Ochil Hills. The surviving mill building is situated at the southern edge of Johnstone Park and Cochrane Park and is flanked by the former Dalmore Primary School and Cochrane Hall (both listed).

Whilst Glentana Mill remains in its prominent roadside setting, the removal of ancillary mill buildings, including the chimney, to the rear of the site has altered the immediate setting of the building. The remaining mill building exists only as a fragmentary survival of Glentana Mill.

Historic maps shows Alva was very industrialised with a number of woollen mills and a brick works (as shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map). These maps show the wider setting of Glentana Mill has changed significantly. The majority of Alva's former woollen mills have been demolished in the late-20<sup>th</sup> and early-21<sup>st</sup> century, for example Coblecrook and Craigleith Mills (which were directly to the southeast of Glentana Mill). These former mill sites have been replaced by late-20<sup>th</sup> century housing. Those few mills that survive, for example Strude Mill, have been converted to flats.

Glentana Mill is a distinctive industrial building because of its polychrome brickwork and its position along the street, however its setting has been changed by the demolition of its ancillary mill buildings and by the addition of later housing in close proximity to the site. There is no special interest in the setting of this building.

### **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**

Woollen manufacture became industrialised in the late-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> century. Many mills were built along the foot of the Ochil Hills to take advantage of the water supply. Alva developed from a village focussed on small-scale weaving into a manufacturing town with off-shoot industries such as paper-making. The wealth this industry brought saw improved rail links to Edinburgh and Alloa and the provision of Johnstone Park (laid out in 1856) and Cochrane Park (in 1922).

By the 1900s Alva had 12 woollen mills scattered throughout the town, with a particular concentration around the periphery of the town and in close proximity to the Alva Burn and the Carnaughton Burn (as shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map).

There are now no working woollen mills in Alva. The very few large industrial mill buildings that remain in the town are often the former offices or warehouses, with most ancillary weaving sheds now demolished. Those buildings that survive have

often been adapted for other purposes, usually housing such as at the Strude Mill to the northeast of Glentana Mill (listed at category B).

Glentana Mill was one of the last mills to be built in Alva in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century and is a rare survival of an industrial building type that was once characteristic of the region. However, the surviving buildings are multi-period and a remnant of a larger mill. In its largely reduced form, the former mill is no longer representative of its building type.

### **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.

Textile mills once dominated the small town of Alva. The woollen and dyeing industry was an important factor for the growth and wealth of its landowners and of the village particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the earlier half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Glentana Mill is one of the last textile mill buildings in Alva built in the fashionable late-19<sup>th</sup> century polychrome brick, however it is a remnant of a larger mill.

Glentana Mill has some social historical interest because it is part of the mill heritage of the area. It is a tangible reminder of a once prolific industry and building type in this area of Scotland.

### **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**

Glentana Mill does not meet the criteria of special architectural or historic interest for the following reasons:

- The remaining mill building of Glentana Mill is a fragmentary remnant of a once larger mill complex and its current form is not representative of its industrial building type
- The exterior fabric of the building has some distinctive polychrome brickwork, but for its date and building type the design and construction is typical
- The significant amount of later alterations to the interior and exterior including the loss of a substantial amount of original fabric has detracted from the special interest
- The setting has been substantially altered following the loss of ancillary mill buildings and the wider loss of the town's industrial mill buildings

## 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

N/A

## 6. Other Information

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N/A

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 47074

### Maps

Ordnance Survey (revised 1899, published 1900) Clackmannanshire CXXXIII.11 (Alloa; Alva). 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 25 inches to the mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (revised 1899, published 1900) Clackmannanshire CXXXIII.12 (Alloa; Alva). 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. 25 inches to the mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

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Gifford, J. and Walker, F. A. (2002) *The Buildings of Scotland: Stirling and Central Scotland*. London and New Haven: Yale University Press, pp.96, 176-183.

Hume, J. R. (1976) *The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland: The Lowlands and Borders*. London: B. T. Batsford, p.89.

Park, B. A. (1979) *The Woollen Mill Buildings in the Hillfoots Area*. University of Stirling: Forth Naturalist and Historian Editorial Board, pp.20-28.

Swan, A. (1987) *Clackmannan and the Ochils: An Illustrated Architectural Guide*. Edinburgh: RIAS, p.74.

### Online Sources

JISC Archives Hub. Wilson Brothers (Alva) Ltd, at <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/637f40e1-db9e-3476-9244-9436685d2dfb> [accessed 26/08/2019].