

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND BOARD**

**SCOTTISH HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY [SHEP]: BATTLEFIELDS**

Attached is the revised text on Historic Battlefields. We are in discussion with the Minister about timing of publication and implementation but the current plan is to include it in a revision of the Scottish Historic Environment Policy document in March 2009, in part to meet a Historic Scotland key performance target.

The Scottish Government had in its manifesto a commitment to introduce a statutory system of protection for battlefields. However, Ministers decided that the approach that we consulted upon earlier this year should be a non-statutory Inventory of nationally important battlefields, modelled on the system already in place for the Inventory of Gardens & Designed Landscapes. Coupled with an amendment to the General Development Procedure Order, inclusion on the Inventory would make a battlefield a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and require consultation of Scottish Government by planning authorities where a proposed development affected an Inventory battlefield.

The responses to the consultation favoured a statutory system and HS will be seeking a steer from Ministers as to whether they wish to continue with a non-statutory system. The current text assumes a non-statutory system.

This draft text attached was circulated to colleagues in Scottish Government on 8 December with a deadline for comments by 16 January.

The consultation document and the analysis of responses can be found at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/policy.htm>

**Policy Team**  
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