



**DEVELOPMENT &
ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

DATE: 20TH MAY 2008

REPORT NO: D&E 851-08

BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR -ENVIRONMENT

CONTACT OFFICER

NIGEL HOOPER, PLANNING MANAGER (578 8526)

SUBJECT

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND CONSULTATION ON HISTORIC
BATTLEFIELDS**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members that Historic Scotland has issued a Scottish Historic Environment Policy document on historic battlefields and is seeking a response to a number of questions by 25th July.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Sites of battlefields are an important aspects of our cultural heritage and are recognised in NPPG18 as being worthy of protection within the planning system. Battlefields do not however benefit from the same level of recognition as gardens or designed landscapes and the SHEP proposes a number of steps to rectify this.
- 2.2 On the basis of the information provided in this SHEP it is unlikely that any historic battlefield sites are likely to be identified in East Dunbartonshire.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 3.1 agrees to return a copy of this report as the Council's response to the consultation for background.

Head of Planning, Development and Property Assets

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Historic Scotland has proposed a number of measures to give protection to identifiable historic battlefields including making them a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, in response to the need to conserve their landscape context, sense of place and value to tourism, safeguarding historical and archaeological artefacts as well as protecting potentially the last resting places of some of the participants.
- 4.2 Historic Scotland proposes to define a battlefield as a location where combatants (normally in formal battle array), numbering at least 500 on each side took part in an intense period of fighting. It is recognised that sieges, massacres, riots and other historical events can also be locally important but these have been excluded from the scope of the policy.
- 4.3 Battlefields can be valued for a number of reasons including their contribution to historical developments, physical remains or archaeological evidence contained within the site which can contribute to historical understanding, the important contribution the landscape played in the events of the battle, final resting place of combatants or significant role that such events play in the national consciousness and culture as expressed for example through art, literature and music.
- 4.4 It is proposed to compile a non-statutory inventory of historic battlefields of national importance and that these should be protected and actively managed through the planning system.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the inventory should be given the same status as the inventory of gardens and designed landscapes.
- 4.6 Selection of sites for inclusion in the inventory will be based on nationally agreed criteria and will be based on the best available evidence at the time. The inventory and the selection process will however be kept under review. Whilst it is only proposed to include nationally important sites in the inventory Ministers recognise that other battlefields are important in a more local context and local authorities are reminded that there are a range of other mechanisms available to them to identify, protect and manage such sites.
- 4.7 The criteria proposed for selection of battlefields for inclusion in the inventory require that they must:-
- a. be associated with historical events or figures of national significance and/or
 - b. have significant physical or archaeological remains and/or
 - c. have a clear landscape context which allows the events to be understood and
 - d. be capable of definition on a map.
- 4.8 The area of interest to be defined in the inventory may depend on the degree of accuracy with which the location of the event is known. The defined area will generally be focused on the core where armies formed up and the fighting took place and within which the densest concentration of archaeological evidence may be expected. Locations may be excluded from the inventory where the landscape has been so heavily disturbed or developed that it is no longer possible to understand the events in the context in which they took place.
- 4.9 It is proposed that policies should be developed by local authorities for the protection and management of inventory battlefield areas.

- 4.10 Historic Scotland proposes to draw up best practice guidance for the protection and management policies.
- 4.11 Roles and responsibilities for Historic Scotland (in creating and reviewing the inventory and offering guidance and advice), local authorities (in developing and implementing policies for the protection and management of inventory sites and sites of local importance) and other key stakeholders such as owners, government commissions, voluntary sector, developers and the academic sector (in contributing to the understanding, management and protection of locations within their remit) are all explained.

5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 Historic Scotland has asked eleven specific questions in relation to this consultation these are as follows:-

1. Do you agree that a policy for the protection and sustainable management of historic battlefields is necessary? If not, what alternative course of action would you suggest, and why?
2. Do you agree with the scope and definition? If not, what changes would you propose and why?
3. Are there other reasons for valuing battlefields that should also be considered?
4. Do you support the proposal to create a non-statutory Inventory of nationally important battlefields? If not, what alternative approaches should be considered?
5. Should an Inventory of Historic Battlefields be given the same status currently enjoyed by Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the planning system (see Note 6)?
6. Do you agree with the purpose of the proposed Inventory? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?
7. Do you believe that the criteria set out in Annex A are suitable? If not, what alternative criteria would you suggest and why?
8. Do you agree with the proposed definition of the area of interest? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?
9. Do you agree that policies are needed for both the overall area of the battlefield and specific areas within it? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?
10. Do you agree that best practice guidance would be useful? In so, who should lead in developing this? If not, what alternative approaches should be considered?
11. Do you agree with the roles identified here? If not, what changes would you propose, and why? Are there other key stakeholders who have significant roles to play?

5.2 It is unlikely that any locations within East Dunbartonshire will satisfy the criteria for inclusion in the proposed inventory and it is therefore not proposed to submit a detailed response to these

questions other than to welcome the extension of an increased degree of protection to these important elements of Scotland's historic environment.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Finance	None
6.2	Legal	None
6.3	Human Resources	None
6.4	Public Relations	None