

Glasgow City Council Response to SHEP on Battlefields

Question 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?*

Yes, we recognise and acknowledge the value of battlefields as historic landscapes and have a duty to care for them. They do need protected and managed sustainably. We understand that battlefields give us a unique understanding of political and social history, and as such can inspire a powerful understanding of the history of Scotland.

Question 2. *Do you agree with the scope and definition? If not, what changes would you propose and why?*

No, don't agree. Some consideration, should be on areas where known skirmishes have taken place or where mass graves are outwith the battlefield designations.

Question 3. *Are there other reasons for valuing battlefields that should also be considered?*

Yes, it is also important to recognise that battlefields play a large part in Local Communities Cultural identity.

Question 4. *Do you support the proposal to create a non-statutory Inventory of nationally important battlefields? If not, what alternative approaches should be considered?*

Yes it is important to list the location of battlefields, although it is noted that it is often difficult to define exact boundaries for the sites, this will make it difficult in planning terms and there therefore may be a requirement to define a buffer zone around sites in order to allow protection under planning law. If the list is non statutory can the national list be added to at a local level, in the same way that Council's define environmental sites at a local level to cover locally significant battlefields? However, resources are required to create and maintain this list.

Question 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)?*

Yes

Question 6. *Do you agree with the purpose of the proposed Inventory? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?*

We agree in principle but we think that Local Authorities should be encouraged to use the same criteria at a local level to expand the inventory to cover sites that are important to their local area.

Question 7. *Do you believe that the criteria set out in Annex A are suitable? If not, what alternative criteria would you suggest and why?*

Yes.

Question 8. *Do you agree with the proposed definition of the area of interest? If not, what changes would you suggest and why?*

No, we think the proposed definition of the area of interest should be opened up slightly. Sometimes clear lines, cannot be given of battlefield sites and consideration must be given to 'sites' outside of the main battlefield areas, i.e mass grave sites. This may be covered by our earlier suggestions of defining the battlefield and then identifying a buffer zone for protection around it.

Question 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?*

Yes, Glasgow City Council would agree that policies are required for the overall areas and for specific areas within it. If a buffer zone around the battlefield is defined then this will also required to be covered by planning policy.

Question 10. *Do you agree that best practice guidance would be useful? If so, who should lead in developing this? If not, what alternative approaches should be considered?*

Yes. It is suggested that Historic Scotland should take the lead supported by input from the Local Authority Planning Services and other stakeholders.

Question 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?*

Yes the Council would suggest that the local communities surrounding the battlefields are also consulted as key stakeholders.

Equality Impact Assessment

Historic Scotland considers it may have to produce an Equality Impact Assessment for this SHEP on battlefields and invites your views on this policy in that regard. We would also welcome any information which may assist us with an assessment and recognise that this assessment might mean that changes to this policy will be required as a result of the consultation. In your response it would be helpful to know what you consider the equality issues to be.

Glasgow City Council acknowledges that there may be a need for and Equality Impact assessment on this policy. Ability access environments impacts differently on men and women depending on the location of the battlefields. For instance policies to protect battlefields may by their nature make it harder for women, children and those with mobility issues to visit the sites and interact with them. Some religious groups may have different interpretations of what can be done to land that is deemed to be someone's last resting place. It should also be noted that national battlefields tend to be significant for there contribution to historical evidence from a male perspective, and that female battlefield history may be related more to local skirmishes, land raids and clan battles.

