

A Guide to the Inventory of

Historic Battlefields

2011

Foreword

Historic battles hold a significant place in our national consciousness. They are an important part of our sense of identity. These events still live on today, recounted and commemorated through memorials, music, poetry and literature. Battlefields, the landscapes on and within which these events took place, are often less well known, but they have great importance for what they can tell us about the course of the battle and its terrain, for the physical remains and artefacts they can contain, and as the location where combatants fought and died and are likely to have been buried.

Historic battlefields make a distinctive contribution to our sense of place and history, both locally and nationally. They are a superb resource for education, helping us understand why significant events in our history unfolded as they did and providing a tangible link to some of the key figures of Scottish history. The ground on which the battles were fought have enormous potential for attracting tourists, as well as for general recreation, allowing visitors to experience the site of a dramatic historical event for themselves and imagine the past.

Historic Scotland, an executive agency of the Scottish Government, compiles the Inventory of Historic Battlefields on behalf of Scottish Ministers. The Inventory promotes recognition of battlefields as part of the historic environment that we seek to care for today and pass on to future generations. It identifies nationally important sites, our most significant and iconic battlefields, and provides information on them to enable their potential value to be realised and to aid the sustainable management of change.

Battlefields are a valued part of our historic environment that deserves to be more widely known and managed sympathetically for the future. The Inventory is a celebration of this distinctive and invaluable resource and will help increase general awareness of historic battlefields throughout Scotland and particularly the contribution they can make to understanding our history and landscape.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields

Battlefields are a distinctive aspect of our historic environment. Like other elements of the historic environment, they are a fragile and finite resource, vulnerable to a range of impacts from modern life that can damage them and diminish their value and potential. It is important that the most significant sites are protected now to ensure that their interest survives, and can be appreciated, in the future.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is a list of nationally important battlefields in Scotland, compiled by Historic Scotland. The Inventory provides information on the sites included to raise awareness of their significance and assist in their protection and management for the future. It is a major resource for enhancing the understanding and enjoyment of battlefields, for promoting education and stimulating further research, and for developing their potential as attractions for visitors.

Principles for Selecting Battlefields

A battlefield is defined in the Inventory as an area of land over which a battle was fought or significant activities relating to a battle occurred. A battle is a combative engagement involving wholly or largely military forces that had the aim of inflicting lethal force against an opposing force.

A battlefield is of national importance if, in informed opinion, it makes a contribution to the understanding of the archaeology and history of the nation as a whole, or has the potential to do so, or holds a particularly significant place in the national consciousness.

For a battlefield to be included in the Inventory, it must be considered to be of national importance **either** for its association with key historical events or figures; **or** for the physical remains and/or archaeological potential it contains; **or** for its landscape context. In addition, it must be possible to define the site on a modern map with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

The full criteria for selecting battlefields for the Inventory are set out in SHEP 2009, Annex 5.

Researching sites

Historic Scotland has commissioned research on sites in the Inventory. This involved desk-based research of historical sources and field visits to identify the extent of the battlefield. Each Inventory description includes a list of the main sources used for compiling the information.

Desk-based research involved a review of documentary sources that mention the battle, both contemporary (or near contemporary) accounts of the event, but also major sources of later date.

A very important source of evidence for locating events of the battle in the landscape is historic terrain maps and contemporary paintings. These often include landscape features that can be identified on the ground. Evidence for the terrain is very important as the landscape normally played a major role in deciding where and how a battle was fought, and often affected its outcome. For Inventory sites, landscape analysis was carried out through site visits to help verify the information from the historical sources and to locate events in the modern landscape.

The research undertaken for the Inventory could not be exhaustive, and we recognise that there is much more to be learned, both from documentary research and from archaeological investigations in the field. We expect that the information in the Inventory will be enhanced, or reviewed, as new information comes to light. We welcome any additional historical or archaeological information that interested bodies or individuals can provide.

Understanding the battlefield landscape

The main action of the battle usually started when opposing armies faced each other and came to close contact, but there was frequently skirmishing or secondary fighting before, during and after the course of a battle. Troops did not stay at a single spot, but moved across the landscape: as well as areas of fighting, there will have been routes of advance and retreat, overnight camps and strategic view-points. Features in the landscape were used for cover and to aid movement, or to hinder movement of the opposing force. When combatants fell, they were generally buried on or near the battlefield itself, sometimes in marked graves.

All these aspects of the landscape were considered when deciding on the extent of the battlefield for the Inventory. Therefore the defined area includes the areas of fighting, major movement of troops, key vantage points for viewing events or directing troops, and overnight camps. It includes specific landscape features that played an important role in the battle, whether natural elements such as hills, ravines or river crossings; or built elements, such as earthworks, buildings or field boundaries. The area may include burials, whether of individuals or massed graves, or have the potential for these to be found. Memorials to significant individuals or to the event itself may also be included, though these are often considerably later in date than the battle itself. The Inventory boundary will also contain areas of known or potential archaeological evidence that, with further investigation, could help us understand more about key events.

Although no additional archaeological investigation has been carried out in researching the Inventory sites, such evidence has been used where available. This has provided information about exactly where events occurred across a battlefield; about troop deployments; about weapons used; and about features that were in place at the time of the battle or resulted from the action.

While the landscape will usually have changed to some extent since the time of the battle, it often retains key characteristics of the terrain at the time, allowing events to be located on the ground, thus aiding understanding and interpretation.

How information is presented in the Inventory

Historic Scotland aims to provide concise and accessible reports that indicate why a battlefield is of national importance, together with a map that indicates the extent of the boundary.

Each Inventory report describes the battlefield and the reasons for its inclusion. This includes a summary of the battle and its historical context, a succinct indication of its importance for each selection factor and an explanation of the area defined by the Inventory map. The selection factors are: historical association; physical remains and archaeological potential; cultural associations; and landscape context. Sometimes more detailed information is provided in support of the summary, though this is not available in every case.

The Inventory map indicates the extent of the battlefield, defining the overall area considered to be of interest on the basis of research undertaken. It includes the area where the main events of the battle are thought to have taken place, where associated physical remains and archaeological evidence occur or may be expected, and where additional landscape components, such as strategic viewpoints, may lie.

At the end of each report, there is a list of key source material and references to aid further research and for educational use.

The Inventory is available online, and can be accessed from our website at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battlefields. Please note that Inventory descriptions and maps may be amended from time to time to reflect new evidence, changing knowledge and improved understanding.

Conserving battlefields

Battles took place within landscapes that were living, working environments at the time and have evolved continually since then. Historic Scotland recognises that our landscape still needs to be managed today to meet the requirements of modern life. In this context, the challenge is to manage battlefields proactively and positively, recognising that they can make a positive contribution to our landscape, our sense of identity and well-being, and to our economy.

Consequently, the Inventory's aim is not to prevent necessary change within battlefields but rather to ensure that this happens in a way that takes the battlefield landscape and its constituent elements into account sympathetically and avoids unnecessary damage to this finite resource. This means seeking to retain key landscape characteristics and important features for the future, protecting, managing, enhancing and promoting them as appropriate, while allowing the landscape to accommodate modern demands.

The Inventory identifies battlefields of national importance and provides information to aid understanding, improve protection, and promote the sustainable management of change within them through the planning system and through land management. It includes a description of the battlefield and a map indicating the area of interest.

The Inventory is non-statutory, which means that there are no new legal restrictions on the area identified by the Inventory maps. Instead, Inventory sites are given particular consideration in the planning process and planning authorities take the Inventory sites into account when preparing development plans and considering development proposals for their areas.

Planning authorities are encouraged to establish policies within their development plans and may give battlefields additional protection through conservation area status or other local landscape designation. They are advised to develop appropriate conditions and agreements to protect and enhance sites on the Inventory, and set out criteria to guide their decision-making.

Many battlefields that have not been included in the Inventory will be of local significance, contributing to the understanding of the archaeology and history of a specific area. Local authorities may wish to develop appropriate policies for such sites.

Planning authorities may consult Historic Scotland on development proposals considered to affect an Inventory battlefield and our views should be given consideration in their determination of a case.

Other public bodies with responsibilities for landscape, land-use and land management should also develop policies and guidelines for battlefields as appropriate to their work. They may also wish to consult Historic Scotland and take our views into account.

While it is for individual authorities to devise their own policies for battlefields, Historic Scotland works closely with planning authorities and other key public bodies to establish guiding principles for managing battlefields in a sustainable way. This is published as a guidance note in Historic Scotland's *Managing Change in the Historic Environment* series, available through Historic Scotland's web-site.

Living and working within an Inventory battlefield

The Inventory highlights nationally important battlefields as a valued aspect of the historic environment so that they will be taken into account in considering any change that might affect them. Our aim is to ensure that the impact of change within battlefields takes their historical and archaeological significance into account, to minimise adverse impacts, avoid unnecessary damage and realise the positive contributions that battlefields can make to our environment.

Inventory status carries no new legal constraint, but the battlefields will be recognised by responsible authorities as an important part of the historic environment and the local landscape and will be governed by appropriate policies and guidelines. These could include, where appropriate, further investigation to help determine an application or in advance of development.

This non-statutory approach is in line with Scottish Ministers' principles for simplifying designations, promoting sustainable economic development, enhancing the role of local authorities and the planning process, and avoiding placing significant new burdens on local government or the private sector. It means thinking about Inventory battlefields in a proactive way that manages change sympathetically while respecting the value they have for all of us.

Anyone wishing to carry out work on land or property within an Inventory site will have to go through the normal requirements that apply, such as applying for planning permission or woodland grants. For major proposals that may have a significant impact on the battlefield, particularly those that are proposed for land that is currently not built on, the responsible authority may ask an applicant to take the potential impact on the battlefield into account or for archaeological investigation or recording to be carried out. For smaller developments, particularly those related to existing domestic properties, this is less likely but it will be for the appropriate authority to decide what is required.

To promote consistency in approach across the country, Historic Scotland will continue to work closely with responsible authorities to establish the key principles for guiding positive change and managing our important battlefields for the future.

Caring for battlefields

Our historic battlefields belong to us all and we can all play a role in making sure that they survive for future generations. There are many exciting examples of local community groups or heritage trusts acting as champions of "their" battlefield and leading the way in celebrating, protecting, promoting and interpreting it. Such

engagement lends weight to the protection and management of the sites, and makes them a positive focus for recreation in a local area and for visitors. This enhances our environment and promotes the heritage and cultural identity of an area. It also contributes to our well-being and helps stimulate the local economy.

The information in the Inventory can be used to help any initiative in promoting enjoyment, interpretation, education, research or the commemoration of battlefields. As a new resource, it has the capacity to grow and develop as we learn more about individual sites.

Management plans

Management plans are a key tool for developing a co-ordinated approach to a battlefield. They aid strategic planning and help with managing change by allowing proactive management of the site in its landscape context and support site interpretation and access. They also provide a context for new research or information to be added, developing our knowledge base and understanding of a site over time. Anyone can take the lead in developing management plans, but it is important that these take all aspects of the management or development of a battlefield into consideration.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are battlefields important?

Battles have a significant place in our history and national consciousness and have a strong resonance in Scottish culture, expressed through art, music and literature, and in our sense of national identity. Battlefields may contain physical remains associated with the battle or have the potential to yield important archaeological evidence that can enhance our understanding of events. Some battlefields are also the last resting places of the slain..

Are battlefields relevant today?

Battlefields play a part in enhancing our sense of place, local distinctiveness and culture, as well as our understanding and enjoyment of the past; and by contributing to the economy through tourism. They offer a rich resource for education and research, including family history. They are ripe for interpretation and recreation, allowing first-hand experience of the location of a major and dramatic historical event. They provide the platform for reflection on our past and the impact it has had on peoples' lives.

Was there any protection before the Inventory?

The Inventory is the first dedicated designation for battlefields in Scotland. Several existing laws have been applied to provide protection to parts of battlefields where appropriate. Parts of some battlefields are protected as scheduled monuments, as listed buildings, as gardens and designed landscapes, or as conservation areas. Additionally where battlefields lie within areas designated for other interests, such as National Parks, National Scenic Areas and areas designated for local landscape value, they can be accorded some protection if recognised as part of the special qualities of the designated area.

What is the purpose of the Inventory?

The purpose of the Inventory is to identify battlefields of national importance and to provide information on them as a basis for their understanding and protection, and to promote the sustainable management of change within them through the planning system and through land management. The Inventory will also provide a resource to inform the wider enjoyment, interpretation, education, research and commemoration of battlefields across Scotland.

Who compiles the Inventory?

Historic Scotland, an executive agency of the Scottish Government, compiles the Inventory of Historic Battlefields on behalf of Scottish Ministers and works closely with planning authorities and relevant public bodies to ensure that sites on it are taken into account in their plans, policies and decision-making processes.

What is included on the Inventory?

Specific criteria are set out in Scottish Historic Environment Policy. To be included in the Inventory a site must be of national importance, being considered to make, or have the potential to make, a contribution to the understanding of the archaeology and history of the nation as a whole or hold a particularly significant place in the national consciousness. Nationally important sites that cannot be adequately mapped will not be included in the Inventory.

How many battlefields are on the Inventory?

Initially there will be 17 sites on the Inventory of Historic Battlefields, though we expect to add more. Although there have been a far larger number of battles throughout Scottish history, most of these do not meet the Inventory criteria. In some cases, sites that would meet the criteria have not been included because they cannot be located accurately on the basis of present knowledge. Historic Scotland will keep the Inventory under review and add new sites, or amend existing descriptions, if further information becomes available. We will also remove any that no longer meet the criteria of national importance.

What will happen to sites that do not qualify for inclusion in the Inventory?

The Inventory is intended to identify sites of national importance. However, there are many sites across Scotland that do not meet the criteria set for national importance but which nevertheless make an important contribution to the local historic environment, landscape character and sense of place. Planning authorities are encouraged to identify such battlefields in their areas and to develop policies for their future management.

Where can I see the Inventory of Historic Battlefields in Scotland?

The Inventory is available online through our website at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/battlefields.

The location of Inventory sites in Scotland is included in PASTMAP at www.pastmap.org.uk. This is a website jointly developed with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. PASTMAP will also identify other protected sites that sit within the area of a battlefield.

If you do not have internet access, we will be happy to send you by post a copy of an Inventory report and map for the particular battlefield that you are interested in. Please contact the Inspectorate Administration Team at Historic Scotland, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH, telephone 0131 668 8716.

Can I propose a site for inclusion in the Inventory?

If you would think that a battlefield meets the criteria and should be included in the Inventory, you are welcome to contact Historic Scotland. You should set out why you believe the site to be of national importance and, if possible, include supporting material such as recent dated and captioned photographs and maps. Please note though that it may take some time for us to consider and decide upon a site for inclusion.

How will the Inventory work?

Planning authorities are encouraged to ensure that Inventory battlefields are recognised in the development planning process and that impacts upon them are considered. Development plans should routinely include policies that identify nationally important battlefields in their area and outline the criteria that will apply to their protection, conservation and management within the planning system.

Other public bodies with responsibilities for landscape, land-use and land management should also develop policies and guidelines for battlefields as appropriate to their work.

What protection comes with inclusion on the Inventory?

Inclusion on the Inventory carries no new legal restrictions, but gives the battlefields extra weight in the planning system and gives planning authorities the key role in decision-making. This non-statutory approach is in line with Scottish Ministers' principles for simplifying designations and promoting sustainable economic development, which seeks to enhance the role of local authorities and the planning process and to avoid placing significant new burdens on local government or the private sector.

Does inclusion in the Inventory restrict what I can do?

National planning policy confirms that maintaining and enhancing the quality of the historic environment and preserving the country's heritage are important functions of the planning system. Historic battlefields are part of that heritage. The purpose of the Inventory is to ensure that the impact of change within battlefields takes their historical and archaeological significance into account to minimise adverse impacts and avoid unnecessary damage.

Inventory status carries no new legal constraint, but the battlefields will be recognised by the local planning authorities as an important part of the historic environment and local landscape and will be governed by appropriate policies and guidelines and given consideration in decision-making processes. No additional application is needed.

Your local planning authority will be able to provide further advice.

What is Historic Scotland's Role?

Historic Scotland's aim is to safeguard the nation's historic environment and promote its understanding and enjoyment. We are responsible for protecting and providing advice on the management of the most important parts of Scotland's historic environment, and for grant-aiding its conservation.

Historic Scotland compiles and maintains the Inventory on behalf of Scottish Ministers. It is for other authorities to manage the impact on Inventory sites, but Historic Scotland may be asked for views on proposals considered to affect an Inventory battlefield and our views will be taken into consideration by the local planning authority.

A guidance note setting out the guiding principles for the sustainable management of battlefields across the country is available in Historic Scotland's *Managing Change in the Historic Environment* series.

Historic Scotland

Historic Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government. It is charged with safeguarding the nation's historic environment and promoting its understanding and enjoyment. The Inventory of historic battlefields is one of 5 designations applied by Historic Scotland, along with scheduling, listing, the Inventory of gardens and designed landscapes and the protection of historic shipwrecks. These are intended to inform the management of the historic environment to reinforce sustainable development and, from this greater understanding, serve to protect Scotland's defining character and its sense of place.

Contacting us

Enquiries about the Inventory of Historic Battlefields should be directed to Historic Scotland's Inspectorate at:

Historic Scotland Inspectorate
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh EH9 1SH

Tel: 0131 668 8600

Email: hs.battlefieldsconsultation@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Administrative Grievances

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman Act 2002 provides a simple and effective means for members of the public to make complaints about maladministration and service delivery arising from the activities of public authorities in Scotland.

A complain can be made by an aggrieved person (or their representative including an MSP or local councillor) within 12 months of the day after the aggrieved person had notice of the matter of complaint. The Ombudsman can be contacted at the following address:

The Scottish Public Services Ombudsman
Freepost EH641
Edinburgh EH3 0BR
enquiries@scottishombudsman.org.uk

Useful Resources

ALGAO: Scotland

The Scottish arm of the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers. Member local authorities are represented by the senior professional archaeologist whose primary responsibility is to advise that authority, principally through the planning process, on conservation and management of the archaeological resource within the boundaries of that authority, and who has been nominated by that authority to represent it.

<http://www.algao.org.uk/Association/Scotland/ScotIntro.htm>

Forestry Commission (Scotland)

FCS's mission is to protect and expand Scotland's forests and woodlands and increase their value to society and the environment.

www.forestry.gov.uk/website/fchomepages.nsf/hp/Scotland

Heritage Lottery Fund

Using money raised through the National Lottery, the HLF gives grants to sustain and transform our heritage.

www.hlf.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland

RCAHMS collects, records and interprets information on the architectural, industrial, archaeological and maritime heritage of Scotland.

www.rcahms.gov.uk/index

Scotland Rural Development Programme

The SRDP is a programme of economic, environmental and social measures, worth some £1.5 billion, designed to develop rural Scotland from 2007 to 2013.

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP

Scottish Historic Environment Policy (July 2009)

This sets out Scottish Ministers' policies for the historic environment and provides the policy context for the Inventory of Historic Battlefields.

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-july-2009.pdf

The National Trust for Scotland

The NTS is Scotland's largest conservation charity and looks after some of our most iconic battlefields.

www.nts.org.uk

UK Battlefield Resource Centre

This provides information on fields of conflict throughout the UK. It is run by the Battlefields Trust whose aim is to protect battlefields for the future, enhance their interpretation and provide a range of battlefield-related activities and information

www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/