

**MacDor**

---

**From:****Sent:****To:****Subject:** Historic battlefields consultation**Attachments:** shep\_battlefields\_consultation\_covering\_e-mail\_letter.doc

\*\*\*\*\*  
This email has been received from an external party and  
has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Response to Historic Battlefields Consultation:

Q1: Yes, nationally important battlefields need to be a material planning consideration - or these special landscapes will be lost for all time. In the absence of such protection, poor management will lead to the continued erosion of this important aspect of Scotland's cultural landscape.

There is an illogical gap between the detailed protection afforded to individual properties through the listing buildings programme and major battlefields, which have arguably been of far greater significance in shaping Scotland, yet are currently afforded no real protection in their own right.

Q2: I am no expert, but the scope sounds reasonable.

Q3: If battlefields have been respected to some extent by past developments, they may well provide an outdoor space of significant cultural and recreational value - such places are few and far between in proximity to our cities. On account of their size, battlefields may still be able to provide significant open spaces so necessary if we are to be able to contemplate and appreciate the historic events leading to the present - in a way that a massive housing estate for example could not.

Q4: I support the creation of an Inventory, but wonder if statutory protection might also be necessary, or if making battlefields a material planning consideration would be sufficient?

Q5: Yes - at the very least. It could be argued that nationally important battles - and by extension their battlefields - have played a far more significant role in determining the course of Scottish history than Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

Q6: I wonder if the proposed Inventory should have greater powers of protection - on a statutory level?

Q7: I wonder if Annex A should also include something reflecting the contemporary cultural context in which some battlefields are regarded - this would also seem to be relevant, where oral and folk tradition, often through the clan system is of growing popularity.

Q8: Yes.

Q9: Yes - but I should like to add that the option to restore areas damaged by poor management in the past (such as afforestation) should be considered prior to further degradation on the back of poor past management.

Q10: Best practice guidance is essential and needs to be developed by a centralised body, such as Historic Scotland - but in consultation with battlefield and planning experts.

Q11: I am no planning expert, but it would seem logical that there is a need for a national planning policy on battlefields - I am not sure if the word "Inventory" carries sufficient weight to actually afford nationally important battlefields the protection they need.

One group of stakeholders not in this list is the general public with a strong interest in battlefields - as reflected in the various battlefield re-enactment societies and clans who keep these traditions very alive and part of contemporary society. I think they deserve to be stakeholders too, particularly as they are often the main interface the public has with battlefields - and key educators.

25/07/2008

My details are sent as an attachment. I hope this consultation exercise is constructive and will afford battlefields significantly better protection in the near future.

This email was received from the INTERNET and scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Cable&Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs. (CCTM Certificate Number 2007/11/0032.) In case of problems, please call your organisation's IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.

25/07/2008