



**SHEP on Historic Battlefields (Con 1005)**

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To the Scottish Government consultation on Historic Battlefields,

After having read the consultation paper SHEP on Historic Battlefields (Con 1005) I wish to contribute the following comments to the consultation paper, listed in order of the presented questions.

**Question 1:** Do you agree that a policy for the protection and sustainable management of historic battlefields is necessary?

Yes. Battlefields are unique landscape features that play heavily to the memory, citizenship and identification with national identity. Battlefields should enjoy specific protections to promote education, remembrance and preservation.

**Question 2:** Do you agree with the scope and definition?

No. Specific to item 4.3, a battlefield is only defined, "as the area of land over which a battle was fought." However, battlefields act only as the cumulous to a campaign or troop movement during an act or war or aggression. Further, concentrating armies may assume positions for skirmish, leading or withdraw engagement, encampment, supply, transport, communication and medical purposes that are within the region but out with the primary battlefield. A singular definition of a battlefield as only the point where clash of arms occurs is too narrow an interpretation to properly understand battles and campaigns.

Further, 4.3 also defines the numbered combatants at 500 or larger to each side for a battle to have occurred. As Scottish battlefields are existent spanning hundreds of years and many forms of warfare the definition of a battlefield based upon involved combatants must take into account the size and scope of fielded military forces during the time of conflict. A definition based upon an accurate percentage of combatants (professional or citizen) compared to entire available forces to each side would more accurately determine battlefield status. Specifically, a battlefield should be defined by combatant numbers when those numbers constitute a significantly important number of forces when compared to those available to the campaign, region, nation, etc.

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

I agree with all presented reasons.

**Question 4:** Do you support the proposal to create a non-statutory Inventory of nationally important battlefields?

Yes. However, in regards to item 4.10 I disagree that a definition of a battlefield may only fall upon landscapes "whose value has not been seriously compromised by subsequent land use." While I agree that subsequent land use does significantly alter the battlefield and erase historically significant value, it does not erase the memory of the battle, for which the point of preservation and this consultation is being held. Historically significant, but compromised battlefields should be listed, but with the importance placed on remembrance and awareness, not physical protection.

**Question 5:** Should an Inventory of Historic Battlefields be given the same status currently enjoyed by Gardens and Designed Landscapes within the planning system?

Yes. However, different levels of protected status should be granted to battlefields and areas of surrounding importance based upon specific factors, that include but are not inclusive to: battlefield approaches, troop encampments, battlefield hospitals and campaign stores. In such cases designation and protection should be appropriate but not exclusive to the same as the actual field of battle. In the case of battlefields where the physical landscape has been compromised, efforts to identify and increase knowledge of the conflict should be made the same as those battlefields that have not been compromised. To not do so ignores compromised sites merely under the assumption that that have been eradicated for importance by the progression of historic development alone.

**Question 6:** Do you agree with the purpose of the proposed Inventory?

Yes.

**Question 7:** Do you believe that the criteria set out in Annex A are suitable?

Yes. However, item 5.4d (be capable of definition on a map) does not specify to what map the battlefield must be defined upon. As maps are updated, changed or adapted battlefield definition does change as cartography and archeology improve through time. A battlefield defined on an ancient or historic map will have different boundaries than that on a modern Ordnance Survey map with archeological investigation overlay. Further definition and consultation is required on this point.

**Question 8:** Do you agree with the proposed definition of the area of interest?

Yes, so long as item 5.8 is not removed.

**Question 9:** Do you agree that policies are needed for both the overall area of the battlefield and specific areas within it?

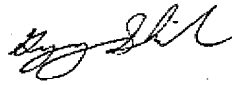
Yes. A battle is a complex movement involving two separate sides with different approaches and deployments of force. Any policy must take into account that a battle is only the culmination of complex movements leading to the clash of arms. A battlefield designation should include some form of listed identification (possibly with protection) for natural or man made features, structures, encampments and avenues of approach and removal from the battlefield.

**Question 10:** Do you agree that best practice guidance would be useful?

Yes. The lead for such guidance should come from Historic Scotland but with the involvement and participation of (without this list being exclusive of others):

- ❖ The National Trust for Scotland
- ❖ The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
- ❖ Scottish National War Museum
- ❖ University participation (not exclusive to, The University of Glasgow, Department of Archeology - Battlefield Archeology and Centre for Warfare Studies)

Sincerely,



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