

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
POLICY & PROJECTS

Director of Development: Jeremy Baster, B.A., M.Phil., M.R.T.P.I.
School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY

Tel: (01856) 873535 ext 2816 Fax: (01856) 886451
E.mail: Miriam.frier@orkney.gov.uk

(If telephoning or calling please ask for: **Miriam Frier**)



SHEP on Battlefields
Historic Scotland
Room 2.9
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

1 July 2008

Dear Sirs

RE: Consultation on Historic Battlefields July 2008

Orkney Islands Council welcome the opportunity to comment on the consultation SHEP regarding Historic Battlefields.

We are broadly supportive of much of the contents of the consultation paper, subject to some more detailed comments on the definition of battlefields with regards importance nationally and locally.

Please see our comments below:

Question 1.

Is a policy necessary?

Yes. A national policy and strategy to research, protect and sustainably manage battlefields should be arrived at.

Question 2:

Scope and definition?

We agree in principle about a definition but feel that to be more inclusive, a tiered system could be put in place to ensure that smaller battles or those of regional or local importance can be recognised and protected. Maritime sites should be included. If this is not the case then it could well be possible that battles of local importance or in rural areas are overlooked.

Question 3

Are there other reasons?

A recent focus meeting discussing Cultural Environments (with over 50 participants) in Orkney "underlined the aims of the European Landscape Convention, in stressing the centrality of the resident community in landscape matters." Thus acknowledgement of the needs or "cultural rights for the Scottish citizen" can be

brought into play by a tiered approach. (ESSENCE: Peopling the environment in the past for the future –unpublished Scoping Study Report to the Scottish Funding Council (SRDG) Summary of Results January 2008 by Jane Downes et al.)

Battlefield sites are also an opportunity for participation and education in the Cultural Heritage (Faro Convention encourages this, and ELC requires various knowledge transfer activities in relation to landscape).

Battlefields can be a key instrument in working for peace.

Question 4

Non-statutory Inventories: Non-Statutory inventories of other kinds of monuments likely to be of national importance (but not yet Scheduled) have not been meaningfully supported. An Inventory may be created, but battlefields require statutory protection either through Scheduling for nationally important sites or through legislative protection designed appropriately.

Battlefields are often extensive and may cross local authority boundaries. Policy guidelines coupled with an inventory should ensure consistency.

Question 5

The same status as Gardens and Designed landscapes?

The difference between the degree of certainty regarding location for a designed landscape or garden is not always possible for a battlefield. Maybe there could be a scheduled heart and then an outer buffer zone. The inner heart would be where physical or documentary evidence for the battle lay and then the outer buffer would be in place to protect views and sight lines and applications could be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Question 6

Agree with the purpose of the proposed inventory?

In broad terms yes. This would be very helpful for education.

Question 7

Are the criteria set in Annex A suitable?

Owing to the comments above about sizing battlefields or defining them according to importance, the criteria are not suitable. They will only work for battlefields of national importance and if the tiered definitions are applied would not be applicable.

Question 8

Definitions of area of interest:

These are reasonable as they stand for nationally important sites. However, the tiered system should be considered.

Question 9

Are policies needed for both the overall area of the battlefield and specific areas within?

Perhaps it would be better to Schedule the key areas and use the Non-stat inventory to list the other areas to be protected as “setting” or “buffer zone” for the battlefield.

Question 10

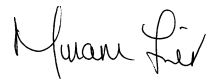
Is best practice guidance useful? Who should lead in developing?

Best practice is also welcomed. Historic Scotland with Local Authority archaeologists and other stakeholders e.g. National parks, should lead in developing.

Question 11

Do you agree with the roles identified here? Are there other stakeholders?
Encouraging battlefields to be recognised and prioritised under SRDP would be helpful. Stakeholders should include SEARS, statutory undertakers, power generators, and possibly transport infrastructure bodies.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miriam Frier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

Miriam Frier
Planner policy and projects: