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**Sent:** 07 May 2008 13:28

**To:** Kelly C (Christine)

**Subject:** The Scottish Historic Environment Policy on Historic Battlefields

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While I am delighted to see that Historic Scotland has proposed to protect Scotland's battlefields(public consultation in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy series) by making such sites a material consideration during the planning process, it is disappointing to note that this stops short of full legal protection.

The proposed "inventory of battlefields" will not provide local authorities with the power to block planning applications as the policy will be non-statutory and, as such, battlefields will still face the cultural vandalism that currently marks many

For example, the Battle of Bothwell Bridge, where a Covenanting army was defeated in 1679, is buried under a housing development, with a small memorial to the rebel dead all that remains.

Developments also continue to threaten the likes of Bannockburn, where Robert the Bruce famously defeated the English, and the Jacobite battle of Sheriffmuir. For a country with such a rich history, we take an astonishingly cavalier attitude to our past, unlike the US, for example, where battlefields are held sacred.

What is required is automatic government protection for our battlefields, and as such an SNP Government would be hitting an open goal as it looks to promote greater awareness of Scottish history in our schools.

Key battlefields should be listed and have the same status as historic buildings. To lose them would be little short of criminal

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