

MacDonald L

From:**Posted At:** 23 July 2008 19:41**Conversation:** Scottish Historic Environmental Policy (SHEP) Consultation on Policies for Historic Battlefields**Posted To:** hs.shep**Subject:** Scottish Historic Environmental Policy (SHEP) Consultation on Policies for Historic Battlefields

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FAO SHEP on Battlefields
Historic Scotland
Room 2.9
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh EH9 1 SJH
23 July 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Historic Battlefields Consultation 2008

In response to your consultation, I enclose my comments below. These are based mainly from experiences I have had through living within the defined conservation area around Culloden Battlefield, Culloden Moor, Inverness, Highland over a number of years. I am glad that the issue has finally been considered. It is long overdue however. Much damage may have already occurred to battlefield sites in Scotland.

As regards the Options listed in the consultation document

Annex B, I might suggest -

Section 4 - Option 2: to create an Inventory is of much importance.

Section 5 - Costs and Benefits - Option 2: Scottish Ministers should be responsible for the costs of this.

Section 6 - Impact on small firms, I would agree the importance of protecting the sites would be worth the costs. Any negative impact on small number of individual planning applications would be outweighed by the benefits of such a scheme.

Section 8 - Enforcement, sanctions, monitoring - this cannot come soon enough, and perhaps is already too late in some cases.

Annex C: Any other information -

Conservation area boundaries:

It is strange that the conservation area boundary around the battlefield I know of, starts and ends at *fencing*, which can change. For example, I live in a cottage 100 years old within the conservation boundary and abide by these regulations. Yet just across the fence a couple of metres away, there is no conservation control. This arable land is open to any development as the conservation area rules no longer apply, yet the land may contain as much archaeological and physical evidence, even lost memorials outside the conservation area. I believe the precise extent of the battlefield has been disputed. I wonder when the conservation area was last reviewed in the light of more recent archaeological evidence? Not that I know of over 15-20 years.

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As an example, a farmer who owns land within site of the NTS Culloden Battlefield site has received outline planning permission and is selling this on. There will be no requirement for these house sites to conserve any evidence, or the view of the battlefield area from the NTS visitors centre. I personally objected to this during Local Plan Stage. The Scottish Reporters acting on behalf of Scottish Ministers finally allowed further development - based on the planning process that did not take into account land ownership - a nonsense. The Reporter I guess intended to 'round-off' the crossroads development, which I read as allowing for further housing on land owned by the National Trust. Unsurprisingly, NTS hasn't chosen to develop. Meantime, the local farmer has taken advantage of this decision by applying for outline permission and receiving it, in an area nearby that does not appear to 'round off' the small settlement of cottages next to / adjoining the battlefield.

To me the planning procedures for developments around conservation sites should include consideration of the greater impact they have of sites of such significance.

They should also consider protecting the adjacent areas

I hope this is of some help in the consultation process and look forward to hearing the results of this in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Leanach, Culloden Moor, Inverness, IV2 5EH

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