

The Old Musselburgh Club



Founded 1961

Please reply to:

Dr. Gordon J Barclay
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Dear Dr. Barclay,

SHEP ON HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS (CON 1005)

I confirm my recent telephone conversation and thank you most sincerely for allowing this latitude in replying.

I attended a recent cluster meeting in Prestonpans and Kristine Cunningham kindly gave me the relevant consultation documents inviting written responses to and regarding the proposal, that Historic Scotland should compile and maintain an Inventory of Historic Scottish Battlefields considered to be of National Importance.

I write on behalf of the Old Musselburgh Club as the Immediate Past President and serving member of the Club Council. I enclose a copy of our Club's current syllabus which contains our Constitution and Rules. May I specifically point out item 3 in our Constitution and also the two dates in September annually commemorated (Battles of Pinkie Cleuch and Prestonpans).

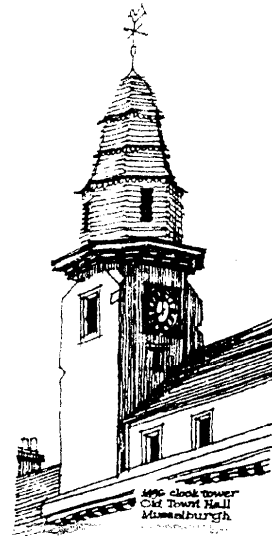
The annual commemoration of the Battle of Pinkie Cleuch is held on 10th September at the Memorial at Carberry Mains Farm, situated between Wallyford and Whitecraig. The late George Montgomery, the then Local Community Council Chairman and Honorary Life Member of the Old Musselburgh Club had campaigned for nearly twenty years to have this Memorial erected. Finally he won the day and the Memorial was unveiled on 10th September 1998 marking the 451st Anniversary of Black and Bloody Saturday.

Since George Montgomery passed away I have taken over the oration at the memorial and have now compiled a considerable file on the History of the Battle.

The opportunity to contribute to this Consultative Document is very much appreciated and I look forward to seeing the implementation of an effective policy for the Protection of Historic Battlefields.

Yours faithfully,

Alastair Hare.



- Question 1 Yes, I do agree that an EFFECTIVE Policy for the protection and sustainable management of Historic Battlefields is absolutely necessary.
- Question 2 Yes, I agree with the scope and definition of a Battlefield as defined in Paragraph 4.3.
- Question 3 Yes, EDUCATION and TOURISM (refer to paragraph 4.16) In most cases, the various reasons stated in paragraph 4.5 - "Recognising the Value of Battlefields" certainly apply to the Battle of Pinkie Cleuch/Cleugh. However, this Battle has never held a significant place in the National or even Local consciousness and wrongly and sadly continues to be generally ignored by 'Education Authorities'. The greatest loss of Scottish Life - very much higher than that at Flodden field deserves remembrance over and above the efforts of The Old Musselburgh Club. (see paragraph 2.6.)
- Question 4 I agree that important Battlefields should enjoy better protection as coherent entities. I also agree that Historic Scotland should compile and maintain an inventory of Historic and Nationally important Battlefields. However, I disagree with the proposal that the inventory should be non-statutory. (refer to undemoted reply to question 5.)
- Question 5 I agree that the inventory of Historic Battlefields should AT THE VERY LEAST and most definitely be given the same status currently enjoyed by gardens and designed landscapes within the planning system. The interested parties in Musselburgh know the significance of this status - or indeed the lack of it, regarding the Historic Old Musselburgh Golf Course!
- Question 6 Yes, I agree that the purpose of the proposed inventory is to identify sites of National importance and to raise awareness of battlefields and the need for their protection as an important part of the Historic Environment of Scotland. The inventory will provide information on identified sites as a basis for understanding, protection and the sustainable management of change. It will also act as a resource for interpretation, education and research.
- However, I am rather concerned by the tenor of the language used in paragraph 4.13 - 'Planning Authorities, Landowners and 'EXPERTS' "will NORMALLY be consulted". Also paragraph 4.15 - They (Scottish Ministers) therefore 'ENCOURAGE' planning authorities 'TO RECOGNISE' nationally important battlefields. Planning authorities 'MAY' also wish to give 'SIMILAR CONSIDERATION' to battlefields of more local importance.
- I am delighted to endorse paragraph 4.16 - that, by highlighting Battlefields as described, will ensure that the process of change is actively managed, reducing inadvertent damage and adverse impacts and mitigating the effects of development. It will also provide a framework FOR ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS in discussion about the value and significance of Battlefields and in EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING THEIR POTENTIAL for EDUCATION and TOURISM.
- Question 7 I believe that the criteria set out in annex A are suitable and comprehensive in guidance for determining whether a Battlefield is of National Importance for inclusion in the proposed directory.
- Question 8 I do not agree with all that is proposed in defining the areas of interest. It is likely that most Battlefields, if not all, particularly those sited in or near urban conurbation have suffered degradation in some form or another, some sadly to a greater extent, much of the loss to various developments still continues today because of lack of safeguards, surely there must be an even greater need to protect what survives.

- Question 9 I agree that EFFECTIVE policies (indeed policies as well, if deemed necessary!) are needed to promote protection, to support sustainable management for both the overall area of the Battlefield and specific areas within it - including areas that have already been disturbed or developed
- Question 10 I agree that best practice guidance would not only be useful, but essential. The responsibilities and implementation of effective policies in protecting and managing inventory Battlefields should be lead by Historic Scotland, involving planning authorities and key stakeholders.
- Question 11 Generally agree with the roles identified as 'Key Stakeholders' and take it that under paragraph 6.4c 'The Voluntary Sector' will include Local Community Councils , Local Historic Organisations and Societies, etc.etc.

ANNEX B

PARAS 1&2 PARTIAL REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

I agree with details expressed in paragraphs 1 & 2 - particularly 2.3
RATIONALE FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION
 However, if the policies eventually agreed are, as consistently implied throughout this document - NON-STATUTORY, to be anywhere near effective, the measures adopted must have at the VERY LEAST the level of recognition afforded to Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

OPTIONS PARA 4

It is therefore essential that Option 2 is taken and if this must be non-statutory it must contain an effective and clear framework for the protection, promotion and sustainable management of Historic Battlefields.

OPTION 2 OPTION 8

**Sub.Para.b COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT
 ENFORCEMENT, SANCTIONS, MONITORING**
 That Battlefields will be a "material consideration" in the planning process and subject to relevant enforcement provisions. The Relevant General Development Procedure Order "may" be amended in "due course" to include a provision for Battlefields. Historic Scotland will be responsible for undertaking a review of the effectiveness of the new policy within three years of it coming into force.

For and on behalf of the Old Musselburgh Club



Alastair Hare
 Immediate Past President



" THE BATTLE OF PINKIE CLEUGH "