

SCOTLAND'S INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS



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Scotland's Inventory of Historic Battlefields

This booklet explains what being on the inventory means and how we assess battlefield sites for the inventory.

Scotland's historic environment has been shaped by people for over 10,000 years. Past generations have left their mark on our towns and cities, and the countryside around us. The sense of place and the strong cultural identity that our historic environment provides are rooted in our communities and promote a positive image of Scotland across the world.

The inventory identifies sites that can be located with certainty where a nationally important battle took place, soldiers fought and died, and where significant activities took place. They range from the first battle of Dunbar in 1296 in East Lothian through to Culloden in the Highlands, where the final pitched battle in Britain took place in 1746.

Measures to protect our built environment first became law in the United Kingdom in 1882. The inventory of historic battlefields was begun in 2011 and there are now over 35 sites on the inventory.

The historic character of our environment is important to our quality of life and it helps us to understand who we are. Scotland's historic battles are an important part of our identity and culture, and today they are not only remembered through memorials, music, poetry and literature, but also through the inventory.

Below: Looking down from Doon Hill to the area of both battles of Dunbar, in 1296 and 1650 © Historic Environment Scotland



Cover: Many of Scotland's battlefields have memorials to the events and individuals, such as this statue of Robert Bruce at Bannockburn, Category A listed © Historic Environment Scotland **Above:** Old Inverlochy Castle, played a part in two battles on the inventory, in 1431 and in 1645. The Earl of Argyll garrisoned men inside the ruined castle during the second battle, and many of them were allegedly massacred within by their Royalist opponents in the aftermath © Historic Environment Scotland



What is the inventory?

The inventory is a list of Scotland's most important historic battlefields. Battlefields are landscapes over which a battle was fought.

We maintain the inventory under the terms of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46.

The purpose of the inventory is to identify sites of national importance and provide information about them. When a battlefield is included on the inventory it becomes a material consideration in the planning process. This means that it has to be taken into account when deciding planning applications.

To be added to the inventory, a site must be of national importance and meet certain criteria (see page 7). Many battlefields are of historic interest, but only those sites of national significance can be included on the inventory.

Left: Some elements of a battlefield may also be covered by other designations, like the clan graves at Culloden shown here, which are a scheduled monument © Historic Environment Scotland **Below:** Battles took place across Scotland. At Glenshiel in 1719, two armies clashed in the narrow pass seen here © Historic Environment Scotland (Aerial Photography Collection)





Above: Historic maps, such as this example depicting Culloden, can provide valuable information about the location and events of a battle © National Library of Scotland

Assessing sites for the inventory

We assess each battlefield on its own merits.

Our designation policy and selection guidance explains how we assess battlefields for the inventory. See historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy.

To be included on the inventory, a battlefield must be of national importance.

To decide if a site is of national importance, we assess its:

- associations with historical events or figures of national significance

- physical remains or archaeological potential (or both), and
- the wider battlefield landscape around where the battle took place and the interest and evidence in it.

This may include vantage points, lines of sight, earthworks, camps, or burials.

Also, a battlefield can only be included on the inventory if the area of the battle can be defined, with confidence, on a modern map.

Below: A living history event © Historic Environment Scotland





Designation proposals and reviews

Anyone can propose that a site is included on the inventory or ask us to amend or remove an existing site.

Once we receive your form we will acknowledge your application and decide how best to deal with your request. In some circumstances we may not go ahead with an application. If we decide not to go ahead, we will let you know as soon as possible. You can find more detailed information on how we assess sites and places, including our criteria and selection guidance, in our designation policy at historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy.

Our assessments will normally include research and choosing which of the heritage designations is most appropriate for the site that you've proposed (see page 17 for information on all our heritage designations). We may also visit the site.

If we find that the site or place meets the criteria for designation, we will publish a report giving information about our proposed decision on our online portal at portal.historicenvironment.scot. This is called a report of handling and it normally includes an assessment of the site or place.

We normally consult those directly affected, including the owner, occupier or tenant and the planning authority, before designating a site or amending a designation. We also normally welcome views from interested people or groups through our website.

We follow the same process for amending and removing existing designations.

We publish our final decision and the completed report of handling on our online portal. See our website for more information about our service standards and timescales for designation proposals.

If you are the owner or occupier of all or part of the site or place, we will make reasonable efforts to tell you if it has been designated or has had its designation amended. The same applies to removal.

Left: One of the possible sites of the Battle of Dún Nechtain in 685, near Forfar in Angus. Many battles, including this one, cannot be located with certainty and so are not currently included on the Inventory, but further research and new evidence may help find the real site in future © Historic Environment Scotland



The inventory record

Each inventory battlefield is given a record. This consists of written information and a map which shows the extent of the inventory boundary. It is intended to help people understand why the battlefield is of national interest. The record may also have photographs.

You can search the records online on our website at portal.historicenvironment.scot.

The record for each battlefield includes an overview of the battle, an explanation of how it meets the selection criteria, and the area defined by the inventory map.

It can also have more detailed information about the battle, including:

- the events before, during and after the battle
- the numbers and nature of the armies involved
- the landscape of the battlefield
- the known and potential archaeology of the battle, and
- the battle's cultural associations, such as in art, literature and music.

Each record ends with a list of the sources used in researching the site.

The record also includes a map showing the boundary of the inventory area and a map showing the location of significant features related to the fighting within the battlefield. Some records also have a map showing the approximate location of the armies in battle and their routes of movement. This is only included where we can identify this information.

Defining the boundary

We define an area of interest for every site included on the inventory using the research that has been carried out. The boundary includes the locations where the main events of the battle are thought to have taken place, where physical remains and archaeological evidence associated with the battle have been found or may be expected to be found, and where additional parts of the landscape, such as strategic viewpoints and important land features, may lie.

Who currently owns the land does not affect how we define the boundary.



Left: In 1689 Dunkeld Cathedral in Perthshire was one of only three buildings left standing after the battle in the town © Dennis Barnes, Scottish Viewpoint **Above:** Plaque commemorating the 1307 Battle of Loudon Hill in East Ayrshire © Iain McLean, Scottish Viewpoint



Living and working within an inventory battlefield

When a battlefield is included on the inventory this does not mean that changes cannot be made to it. Battlefield landscapes have all changed and evolved since the battle, and they cannot be ‘frozen in time’.

Being on the inventory will normally only affect you if you are proposing a development which will need planning permission. This type of development is set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2013/155/contents/made.

If you want to make a change which needs planning permission, you need to first contact your planning authority for guidance. If your plans involve a listed building or scheduled monument, they can also advise you about any other permission you might need.

For planning permission, the planning authority may need to consult us for our view on the proposals. Our role is to provide advice and expert knowledge. Some of the most common types of developments in and around inventory sites which need planning permission are:

- housing developments, including new roads, lighting and other infrastructure
- new farm buildings and extensions
- wind farms

Left: Lilliard's Stone, Ancrum Moor. There is a legend that a woman, “fair maiden Lilliard” fought and died in the Battle of Ancrum Moor in 1545 © Historic Environment Scotland **Right:** Detail of one of the memorials to the Battle of Kilsyth © Historic Environment Scotland

The planning authority grant planning permission and, in most cases, the final decision rests with them. We are happy to provide advice and guidance on development which may affect an inventory site. You can find out more about this in our Managing Change Guidance Note on battlefields at historicenvironment.scot/managing-change-guidance-notes.

Owners do not need to open their property to the public. There are many privately owned areas within inventory sites which have no formal access arrangements. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code [outdooraccess-scotland.com](https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com) has more information about access rights.





Metal detecting on an inventory battlefield

Metal detecting can take place on inventory battlefields, although it is important to appreciate the value of the site when doing so.

Much of the archaeological evidence found on a battlefield is made of metal, such as the lead in musketballs or the steel used in blades. These items, and where they are found, can provide evidence about the events of the battle and the people involved. If you find any artefacts, through archaeological investigation, metal detecting or by chance, they must be recorded and reported to the Treasure Trove Unit treasuretrovescotland.co.uk. Metallic items recovered from a battlefield can often appear to be unrelated at first sight, particularly when corroded or misshapen, only revealing their connection to the battle when analysed fully.

Under Scottish law, the Crown, through the treasure trove system, can claim artefacts considered to be archaeologically significant. Finders should report all discoveries of archaeological objects as soon as possible to the Treasure Trove Unit, providing as accurate as possible information about the spot where they were found. You can find more information on the legal requirements and the reporting process from the Treasure Trove Unit.

Left: Cromdale Kirk. A Jacobite garrison within the building came under attack by government troops in the early hours of the morning of the Battle of Cromdale in 1690 © Historic Environment Scotland **Below:** The 'Old Leanach Farmhouse' on Culloden Battlefield © D Barnes, Scottish Viewpoint



Other heritage designations

We are also responsible for designating other types of heritage assets, such as listed buildings, scheduled monuments and gardens and designed landscapes.

We also advise the Scottish Government on designating sites as historic marine protected areas. There is more information about these on our website.

Scotland has over 600 conservation areas which are designated by planning authorities. Planning authorities must decide which parts of their areas are of special architectural or historic interest, and they may designate these as conservation areas. The public will normally be consulted on any proposal to designate conservation areas or to change their boundaries.

World Heritage Sites are recorded by UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as places of outstanding universal value in terms of their cultural or natural heritage whc.unesco.org.

Scotland currently has six World Heritage Sites. Information on these is given on our website at historicenvironment.scot/world-heritage-site.

Search for inventory sites, other designations and our decisions

You can search for all of our designations on our online portal at portal.historicenvironment.scot

You will also find information about our designation decisions. If you are still not sure whether a site is included on the inventory, you can email or phone us for help. Our contact details are on the back page of this booklet.

Scotland's Environment website environment.gov.scot also has a map-based search as well as more environmental information, including conservation area boundaries.



Above: This hand drawn sketch depicts two British Army soldiers in training. "Redcoats" like these were involved in a number of Scottish battles in the late 17th and the 18th century © Crown Copyright: Historic Environment Scotland

Further information

There is more information about battlefields on our website.

Advice on development proposals

If your proposals need planning permission, contact your planning authority.

We can also provide advice about managing a battlefield site. There is more information about this on our website, including our Managing Change Guidance. You can also phone us on 0131 668 8716.

Planning Aid Scotland

Planning Aid Scotland provides advice about planning and the planning process pas.org.uk.

Grants

Historic Environment Scotland offers various grants and funding schemes. Individuals and organisations can apply for financial help with projects and works that benefit the historic environment. For more information about our grants see our website at historicenvironment.scot/grants-and-funding.

Scottish Outdoor Access Code

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code has information about access rights and responsibilities in Scotland's outdoors at outdooraccess-scotland.scot.

Relevant laws and policy

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46.

- Historic Environment Policy Statement for Scotland historicenvironment.scot/heps.
- Managing Change in the Historic Environment. See our series of guidance notes on our website at historicenvironment.scot/managing-change-guidance-notes.

Our publications

We have a range of publications at historicenvironment.scot/publications.

Suggestions and complaints

We welcome feedback about the inventory. Please let us know what you think by sending an email to designations@hes.scot.

We are committed to providing high-quality services. We value complaints and use information from them to help us improve our services.

If something goes wrong or you are not happy with our services, please tell us.

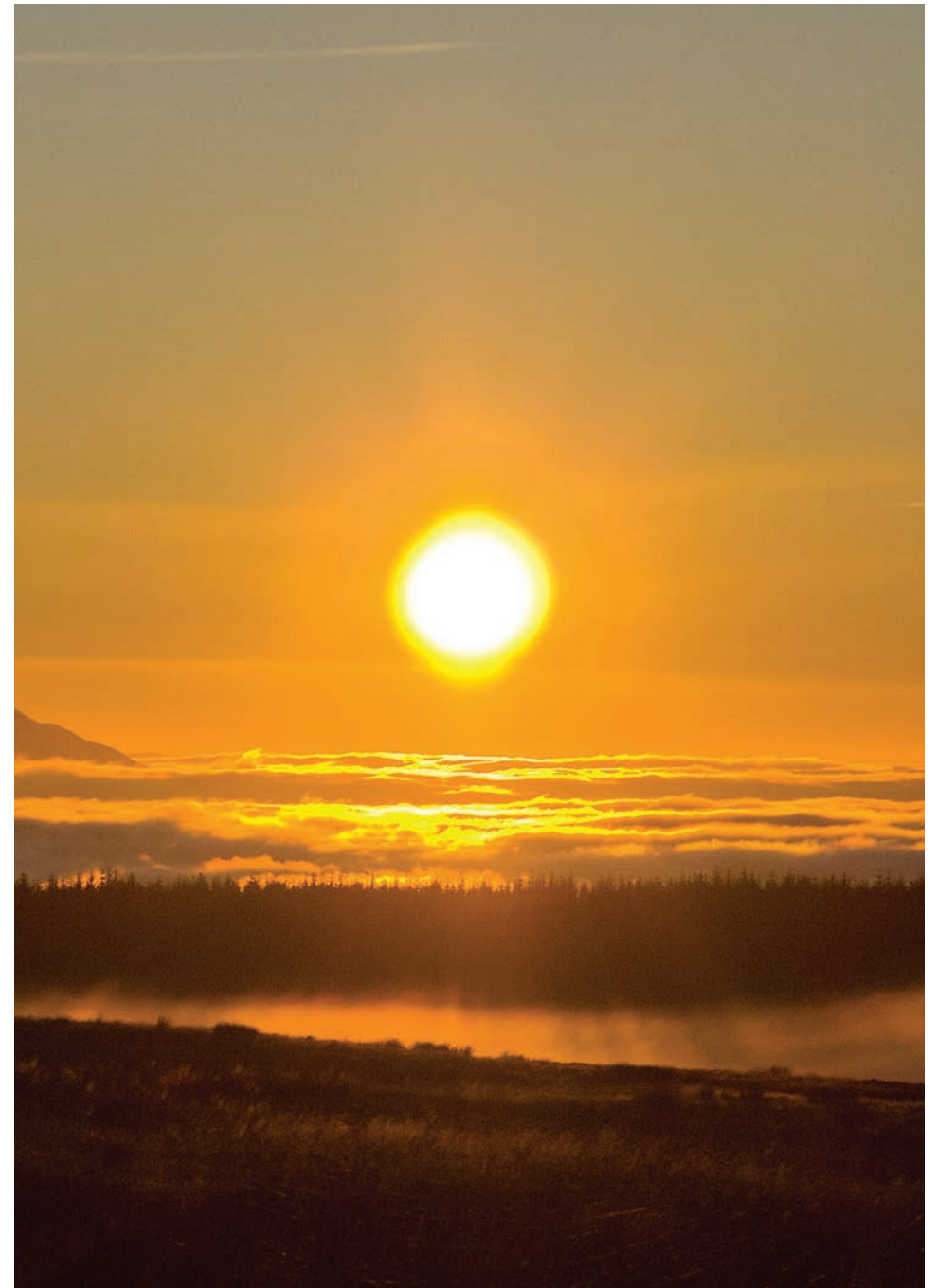
Complaints Officer

Historic Environment Scotland
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Salisbury Place
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Phone: 0131 668 8600

Email: complaints@hes.scot

You can find out more about our complaints procedure on our website at historicenvironment.scot/complaints.



Above: Sunset over the battlefield of Sheriffmuir © Historic Environment Scotland

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Historic Environment Scotland is a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and a registered Scottish Charity (SC045925). One of our roles is to keep the inventory of historic battlefields.

This booklet explains what being on the inventory means for owners and how we assess sites for the inventory. It is also available in Gaelic as An cunntas de dh'àraichean eachdraidheil ann an alba.

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Any enquiries regarding this document should be sent to us at:

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