



**Protect Culloden Battlefield**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

Attention All Newsdesks  
For immediate release

### **Public Demonstrations Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014**

**1 pm – 2.30 pm**

**Visitors Centre, Culloden Battlefield**

**3.30 pm – 5 pm**

**Inglis Street, near Eastgate, Inverness Town Centre**

### **‘The Last Battle of Culloden’ – to protect the battlefield from developers**

Hundreds of passionate and concerned supporters will attend two demonstrations on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2014, to show their disgust over the proposed desecration of part of Culloden Battlefield by housing developers. There will be photo, film and interview opportunities at both locations.

Inverness Properties Ltd, intend to build a housing estate at Viewhill Farm, Culloden which will encroach on the battlefield. The proposed housing development is located inside the inventory boundary map for the Battle of Culloden. This battlefield was included in the ‘*Inventory of Scottish Battlefields*’ conducted by Historic Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Since then there has been an outcry, both national and internationally, that such an iconic site of “National Importance” – a Scottish War Grave – is being dishonoured in this manner. Many supporters view this as a threat to their history and heritage. Supporters are meeting to show respect for their ancestors and to keep Culloden safe for the generations that come after them, so that they may learn from our past.

Sir Kenneth Calman, Chairman of the National Trust of Scotland, stated in an open letter via the Scottish newspapers, his major concern over this housing development,

“As the charity entrusted with conserving our national heritage, we would be failing our 312,000 members and the people of Scotland if we did not express our ongoing concern about the decision of the Scottish Reporter to permit housing development adjacent to the battlefield of Culloden.”



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Dr. Tony Pollard an archaeologist specialising in the archaeology of conflict, and Director of the world famous Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at Glasgow University has recently stated,

*"After some soul searching have come out against Culloden housing development. It's on brownfield but is most definitely thin end of wedge." If I don't say no to this I won't be able to live with myself in ten years time when the corridor to the west is covered with houses."*

Dr Pollard is co-presenter of the BBC series "Two Men in a Trench" and co-founder of the Journal of Conflict Archaeology. He is a member of the "Group to Stop the Development at Culloden" and signatory of our petition. (Change .org- Culloden) Sir Kenneth Calman, Chairman of the National Trust for Scotland has also signed the petition.

The demonstrators want Scottish Ministers to intervene and stop the housing development. An online petition has already raised more than 8000 signatures from all over the world in a very short time. The petition ' Stop the proposed development of homes to be built within 400 metres of Culloden Battlefield' is being presented to First Minister, Alex Salmond, Deputy First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop. A petition to the Public Petitions Committee of the Scottish Parliament is also being submitted.

Ends

For photo opportunities and further comment:

Colin Williamson, spokesperson 'Group to Stop the Development at Culloden'

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Website: [www.stopcullodendevlopment.weebly.com](http://www.stopcullodendevlopment.weebly.com)

Twitter: @Cullodenfriends

Change.org Petition: <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/alex-salmond-stop-the-proposed-development-of-homes-to-be-built-within-400-metres-of-culloden-battlefield>

Notes to Editors:



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- A further demonstration will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 (which is the day after the Culloden Battlefield Commemoration service) at Culloden Battlefield at a time to be fixed. There will be an opportunity for photographs, film and interviews.

#### **Planning Application background:**

- The housing proposal (consisting of 16 houses – some two storey at Viewhill Farm), which was opposed by Highland Council and the National Trust for Scotland, has been given the go-ahead by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter, Richard Hickman. His decision goes against all the protection in place to protect, not only the rural countryside, but historic battlefield sites and landscapes. Notice of Intention (24<sup>th</sup> December 2013, decision is deferred for further planning obligations for 12 weeks, 18th March 2014.").
- Scottish Government appointed reporters are continually overturning decisions made by local councillors throughout Scotland, paying little or no regard to local democracy. The Reporter's decision goes completely against Highland Council's 'Housing in the Countryside and Hinterland' policy.
- Highland Council has in place a Historic Environment Strategy with a supplementary version added in January 2013. Their strategic aim No 15 is:

*'That nationally important battlefields are recognised in the development planning process and to ensure that impacts upon them are a material consideration in development management'*

- An inventory of Scottish battlefields was conducted by Historic Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.
- Historic Scotland state on their website that,

*'Inclusion on the Inventory carries no new legal restrictions, but gives the battlefields extra weight in the planning system and gives planning authorities the key role in decision-making.'* So how is it okay for an unelected civil servant to have the KEY role now?

- There is a raft of publications, which have been ignored, which highlight the Scottish Government's efforts to protect the countryside and historic battlefields.



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## **PRESS PUBLICITY FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE 'EXTRA PROTECTION FOR THE BATTLEFIELDS BY THE INVENTORY OF THE SCOTTISH BATTLEFIELDS' BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND:**

- **BBC News 27 July 2009 - Extra protection for battlefields**  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside\\_and\\_central/8170448.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/8170448.stm)  
The then Culture Minister Michael Russell stated,

*"Once the Inventory is in place in 2011 local authorities - when considering planning applications that affect sites on the Inventory - must take into account the special qualities and character of these nationally-important sites. This is not to say that there won't be change, there's always change in the every landscape, but the change has to be sensitive and the change has to take account of the fact that these are very important places.*

*"There's a real passion and affection for Scottish history, not just in Scotland but worldwide, and names such as Bannockburn, such as Culloden, such as Flodden - failures as well as successes - are known worldwide and people want to know that we in Scotland are looking after these places and remembering their importance."*

- **BBC News 13 December 2010 - 'Scottish battle sites protected'**  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-11968463>  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Heritage Fiona Hyslop stated,

*"We want to make sure that these important battlefields are looked after now and for future generations."*

- **Fiona Hyslop, SNP Conference Address October 2013**  
<http://www.snp.org/blog/post/2013/oct/fiona-hyslop-conference-address>

*"I want Scotland to be a country where everybody cares about, shares and champions our culture and our heritage – where everyone has a responsibility and can make a contribution."*

## **LINKS TO RELEVANT DOCUMENTS:**

- **Scottish Historic Environment Policy – Historic Scotland**  
<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf>
- **Historic Scotland Inventory Map of Battle of Culloden**  
<http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2500:15:0:::BATTLEFIELD:culloden>



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- **Historic Scotland website:**

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/battlefields/aboutbattlefields.htm>

*"Like other elements of the historic environment, battlefields are a fragile and finite resource, vulnerable to a range of impacts from modern life that can damage them and diminish their value and potential. It is important that the most significant sites are protected now to ensure that their interest survives, and can be appreciated, in the future."*

- **Historic Scotland's 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance - Note: Historic Battlefields' 26 Jan 2011**

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/historicenvironment.pdf>

*"Battlefield sites have a distinct and significant landscape context. The landscape in which a battle took place is often crucial to our understanding of the course of events and the association can contribute to our sense of place and local distinctiveness. Battlefields can encompass substantial areas, taking in arenas of conflict, routes of key movements of troops across the landscape, landscape elements that were important to the course of events and other important locations such as the position of camps, burials or vantage points".*

Key principles for managing change within battlefields include:

- ◆ *Avoid large-scale proposals on key aspects of the landscape context, such as areas of fighting or troop movements; or on specific qualities or archaeological deposits;*
- ◆ *Avoid small-scale proposals that could lead to detrimental cumulative impacts;*
- ◆ *Avoid the visual or physical disruption of a site by linear features cutting across, for example, important lines of sight or troop deployments;*

- **Historic Scotland – Looking after our heritage – Battlefields – Battlefield FAQs**

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/battlefields/battlefieldfaqs.htm>

- **Sir Kenneth Calman, National Trust for Scotland - letter**

<http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Culloden/News/2377/>

- **'Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2011'**

<http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/environmentbill/whatisthebill.htm>



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- **Highland Council Historic Environment Strategy Jan 2013**

Section 11 is about protecting Historic Battlefields

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F9AFBCFD-32CD-4AFC-BA7B-99496629DCEF/0/HighlandHistoricEnvironmentStrategyforPEDJan2013.pdf>

- **Historic Scotland cite Article 2 in their 'SHEP' document (Scottish Historic Environment Policy)**

*2.7. The United Kingdom government is party to the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological heritage (the 'Valletta Convention'; see note 2.1), which places an obligation on States, under Article 2, to institute a legal system for the protection of the archaeological heritage, on land and under water.*

- **Council of Europe - ETS no. 143 - European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage**

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/143.htm>

*Article 2: (in full)*

*Each Party undertakes to institute, by means appropriate to the State in question, a legal system for the protection of the archaeological heritage, making provision for: the maintenance of an inventory of its archaeological heritage and the designation of protected monuments and areas.*