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31 January 2011

*Dear Mr David,*

Thank you for your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011, seeking our response to the Public Petition PE1387, following the meeting of the Public Petitions Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011.

I enclose a paper that covers Historic Scotland's involvement to date, our views on the proposal and the Scottish Government position.

I am, of course, happy to provide additional information if the committee would find this helpful.

*yours sincerely*



**RUTH PARSONS**



**THE BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS BATTLEFIELD: PE1387****Historic Scotland –**

1. Do you support the petition?
  - a) We welcome the proposals to provide a permanent interpretation and resource centre for the battle of Prestonpans. One of the major aims of the recently launched Inventory of Historic Battlefields is to raise awareness of the potential of battlefields as a resource for education, recreation and tourism.
  - b) The proposals as laid out by the Trust within the “Prospectus for the Nation” explain their plans for safeguarding the long term future of the battlefield and using it as a resource for the local community and a wider audience, which again is a positive proposal.
  - c) The location of the centre within the Prestongrange Heritage Centre will be an enhancement of the current visitor services.
  - d) The redevelopment of the Bath House building is welcomed. The building is currently in need of maintenance and its redevelopment will secure its long term preservation.
  
2. What actions will you take to support the interpretation of the Battle of Prestonpans?
  - a) The Agency has worked closely with the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Trust over the past 3-4 years in providing advice and support in the development of their plans to identify an appropriate site for the commemoration and interpretation of the Battle of Prestonpans. We would intend to continue to provide such support, as Ministers consider further the present development plans.
  - b) The Bath House is not a Listed Building. However, the Colliery’s Pump House and Pump is a Category A Listed and the Engine and Engine House is a Scheduled Monument. Historic Scotland would welcome early discussions on the design proposals for the Bath House and the potential impacts on the setting of these designated sites.
  - c) Historic Scotland grant assistance may be appropriate depending on the Trust’s plans for the listed structures on the site. It is proposed that some of these will be utilised for the housing of interpretation, artefacts and other collections. However, Historic Scotland has no direct remit as regards providing financial support for general site development.

**Scottish Government –**

1. Once the outcomes of Historic Scotland’s consultation on the creation of an inventory of nationally important battlefields in Scotland are known, will you provide financial support for the creation of a permanent interpretation and education centre close to the site of the Battle of Prestonpans? If not, what action(s) will you take to assist?





The Scottish Government (SG) is, of course, happy to enter into discussions with the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Trust in order that we may investigate possible areas of SG support. However, since budgets for 2012-13 are yet to be set by the Scottish Government and in fact will not be confirmed until after May 2011's election, it is not possible to make a formal commitment to the project at this time. If appropriate areas of funding support are subsequently identified, then Ministers will be required to consider how the project can be accommodated within the existing list of priorities.

## **BACKGROUND**

### THE INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BATTLEFIELDS

Fiona Hyslop, Minister for Culture formally launched the new inventory of Scottish battlefields on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The inventory has been developed by Historic Scotland to identify nationally important battlefields and help with the future management and change of these important sites.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is being delivered in two stages, by March 2011 and March 2012. The consultation of the first 17 sites was formally launched on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010 and closes on 11 February 2011. Further sites that are presently under review may subsequently be added to the Inventory before March 2012.

The Inventory identifies battlefields considered to be of national importance for the contribution they make to the archaeology and history of the nation and includes Scotland's most significant and iconic battlefields. The information provided is intended to aid their protection, management, interpretation and promotion.

The selection criteria are set out in Annex 5 of SHEP 2009 and the principal factors are historical association, physical remains and archaeological potential, cultural associations and landscape context. For each site there is a concise report that describes the battlefield, the reasons for its inclusion and a map of its boundary.

### MANAGING CHANGE IN INVENTORY BATTLEFIELDS

The key purpose of the Inventory is to highlight the importance of battlefields as part of the historic environment and to provide information on the most significant sites to support decision-making and aid the management of change within them. While Historic Scotland has compiled the Inventory, it is recognised that other bodies have the major role in managing them for the future. In particular, local authorities and other public bodies will require to take Inventory battlefields into account in decision-making processes and establish appropriate policies and guidelines for their sustainable management.

To help with this, Historic Scotland has drafted key principles for managing change within battlefields as a starting point for discussion. This was launched for consultation on 26 January until 9 March 2011. During this consultation period, HS is arranging two workshops to develop the guidance in partnership with key stakeholders.