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ON FRIDAY 23 JUNE**

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

22 June 2017

TRUST CONCERNS OVER BANNOCKBURN HOUSING PLANS

The National Trust for Scotland has said that plans for a new housing development near Bannockburn would have a 'major' impact on the area.

Scotland's largest conservation charity raised the concerns as the anniversary of the battle approaches, saying it has to speak out to protect sites of national heritage significance.

The Trust owns and cares for the heritage site at Bannockburn which is thought to have been the spot where Bruce planted his standard and camped the night before the Battle of Bannockburn on 23 and 24 June 1314. As well as A-listed commemorative monuments, it contains an interactive visitor centre which tells the story of the battle.

An outline planning application proposing a 250 house development to the south of Bannockburn has been lodged with Stirling Council.

Property Manager Scott McMaster said the plans were "a further encroachment on the heritage site which has slowly been eroded over the past 50 years."

Scott McMaster continued:

"These plans will not only change the view from where Bruce and the Scots camped more than 700 years ago, but the development would be just metres upstream from the ford – one of the major crossing points that the English used on day one of the battle. This area could easily be the place where the famous encounter between Bruce and De Bohun happened. It would be a great shame to lose even more of this historic location."

In a response to Stirling Council, the Trust will also highlight concerns about the impact of the development on the Bannock Burn itself, saying that any flood defences could contribute to further erosion of the burn and its banks.

The Battle of Bannockburn, fought over two days in June 1314, was a pivotal point in the story of Scotland as a nation. It was here that that Robert Bruce, King

of Scots, faced down the English army led by Edward II. Edward, keen to retain the stronghold of Stirling Castle, had led a huge army through Scotland to lift the Scots' siege of his garrison at the castle. His army was repeatedly thwarted by the Scots' stubborn resistance before finally finding themselves trapped by the surrounding terrain with no room to manoeuvre their huge force. The result was an unprecedented rout of King Edward's army.

The heritage site at Bannockburn benefited from a £9 million project ahead of the 700th anniversary of the battle. Generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Scottish Government, its A-listed monuments were sensitively restored and a new visitor centre that brings the battle to life using innovative 3D technology opened its doors for the first time.

