

CULLODEN 300

Living with the Battlefield

Summary Report

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The cultural landscape surrounding Culloden Battlefield is of vital importance to people who live, work and visit it from all over the world. We are currently risking the ruin of this landscape by allowing inappropriate development. More than 3,000 people from all across the globe made it clear that this landscape holds a rare, deep and powerful resonance. Current conservation efforts and designations are not enough. The stakes are high and action is needed now.

We need to work together better – our call to action

Work with community and partners to better understand and articulate the character and meaning of the cultural landscape.

Build a coherent vision and guidelines for the wider Culloden Battlefield environment, to ensure that decisions taken to manage the landscape are well informed and protect the sense of place.



Why does it matter to people?

People connect in a rare and powerful way with Culloden Battlefield. Located outside Inverness in the Highlands of Scotland this battlefield is of International importance. Culloden attracts more than **300,000 visitors every year**, and is the site of the last pitched battle in Britain, fought between Government and Jacobite troops in 1746. However it is the impact of the battle and its aftermath that resonates across Scotland, and the wider world.

The site owned by the National Trust for Scotland covers only a third of the actual battleground. It sits within a cultural landscape which is owned by many private people and organisations. It is the field of battle itself and the

views that surround the site that give it a sense of place. In the words of one participant, *'It must be **BY FAR** the most emotionally significant place anywhere in Scotland'*.

Over the past 10 years agricultural land in the Inverness/Culloden area has come under increasing pressure from development. This is due to a range of factors, not least the growth in population in the Inverness area and the lack of housing. The 2019 survey shows that there is both anxiety and ambition for the future of the National Trust for Scotland site and the land that lies around it.

The Survey

This report summarises the findings of a six-month survey carried out by the National Trust for Scotland, during spring and summer of 2019. The National Trust for Scotland team at Culloden engaged online and face-to-face with stakeholders locally, nationally and internationally, in an exercise to understand the impact of the site, its story and the landscape, on both local people and those communities of interest that care about the site.

Of the total **3,000 participants, 2,900 people** took part in the online survey, the majority of which **(68%) came from Scotland**. This indicates a strong national response to issues around the battlefield. The significant response from the rest of the **UK (11%)** and the **wider world (21%)** shows that concern for the site is international.

Key themes that matter to people:

Sense of place associated with the site

This was the strongest theme that ran across the feedback. Concepts of openness, atmosphere and connectedness with the site contributed to 49% of the feedback from the online survey. *'It is not necessarily about protecting just the land which soldiers fought upon, it is also the big views around the site which matter just as much.'*

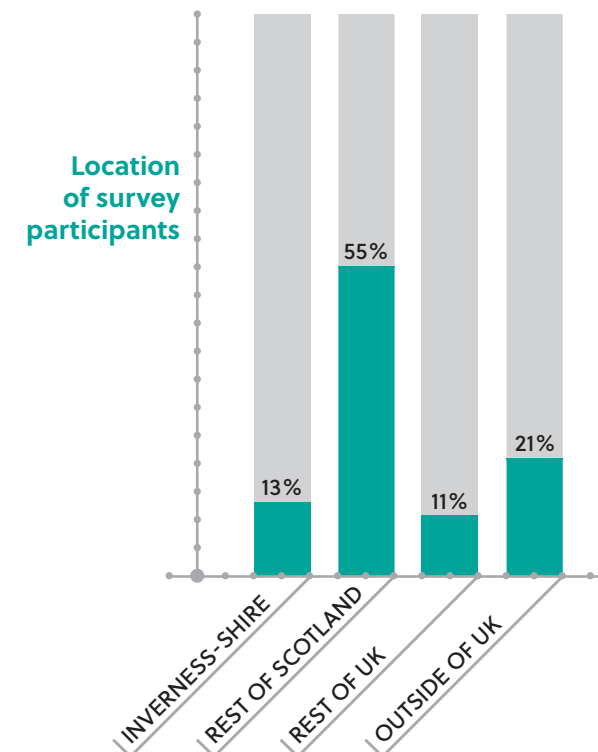
Memorialisation and remembrance

The site is closely linked with issues around cultural identity and loss. The historical event, the landscape itself and the impact of the military occupation of the Scottish Highlands together transcend the sum of their parts. One respondent said: *'Walking around the moor stirs up lots of emotions; it has a very haunting natural beauty and should be left as it is. I feel very privileged to be able to visit any time and love just walking around the place quietly remembering the fallen.'*

The importance of the battle in local and world history

The importance of the battle and its aftermath matter for current and future generations, as respondents said: *'It is the site of a major battle and is an intrinsic part of Scottish history'*

'Teaching history is more engaging when it's real, not just in a textbook. Having access to sites like Culloden allow us to inspire more people, young and old, to take an interest in our history.'



Need to protect the landscape/resource

Closely linked to the three themes above was a clear call from our participants to protect the wider landscape, for example: *'I wouldn't want to lose a part of Scottish history, once it's gone it won't come back. Why would anyone consent to letting anyone take away such a significant part of Scottish history?'*

There was anxiety around development in the area, with high responses across the whole of the demographic, for example: *'I am concerned that by allowing development the battlefield and surrounding area will be changed forever.'*



Living with the Battlefield



'Culloden Moor is at the heart of our culture and spiritual identity as a nation. If we stand back and allow its demise through inappropriate development, future generations will never understand or forgive us'

The National Trust for Scotland

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The integrity of the whole site is currently under threat from piecemeal decision-making, unclear guidance and a lack of focused resource. **This is evidenced by the 16 house development at Viewhill.** Without integrated planning, community support and a holistic response to the resource, it is likely that the cultural landscape surrounding the battlefield will be lost.

This will happen not because agencies, communities and Government do not value the site, but because we were not proactive enough in working together. Active, collaborative and future-focused management is vital to conserve the cultural landscape of Culloden Battlefield.

Action is needed now because the number of planning applications is likely to increase.

Culloden 300 next steps

2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Publication of Culloden 300 report
By 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Vision established for cultural landscape * Measurement tool created for 'sense of place' * Explore land acquisition and establish long-term conservation agreements * Better practical guidelines for planning created * No new development that adversely impacts on the sense of place * Collaborative group established to advise on the cultural landscape and review planning applications * Consider options for increased protection including World Heritage Site status
By 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No new development that adversely impacts on the sense of place * Measurement tool peer-reviewed and methodology improved for 'sense of place' evaluation * Revision of planning guidelines
By 2035	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No new development that adversely impacts on the sense of place * Revision of planning guidelines
By 2040	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No new development that adversely impacts on the sense of place * Revision of planning guidelines
By 2046 - 300 Years after the battle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * No new development that adversely impacts on the sense of place * Revision of planning guidelines