

PE1852/B

Petitioner submission of 16 April 2021

Whilst we appreciate the substantial steps and measures already in place it is clear that these are simply not sufficient to provide protection to such historic areas such as the Scottish Battlefields. In the specific case of Culloden Battlefield, we have seen repeated applications for permission to build on sites within the Battlefield area or very nearby which would severely damage the unique atmosphere of the Battlefield by impinging severely on the visual impact and light/sound pollution in the area, with minor tweaks being made to such applications in order to try to gain permission to build.

We strongly feel that, once the Scottish Government has rejected a planning application on historical protection grounds, that this should be the final step and that no further applications should be permitted from the developer. We feel that developers believe that, if they submit sufficient applications, they will, eventually, succeed in obtaining permission and we would ask that the Scottish Government strengthens its current measures by bringing in a 'final' response to developers that brings to an end this practise of constant resubmission until successful approach. We do appreciate that this may involve the instigation of a Compulsory Purchase scheme, run by the Scottish Government rather than the local Planning Authority, who would have the power to purchase such land from the developers and thus ensure it is preserved for posterity.