



# Killiecrankie road protesters win battle for public inquiry

Tim Bugler

May 8 2018, 12:01am, The Times



Campaigners say the battlefield should have been central to the plans to re-route the A9  
TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES GLOSSOP

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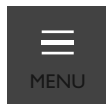
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A public inquiry is to be held into plans to widen and re-route a trunk road through the site of one of Scotland's historic battles.

Transport Scotland has said that the Killiecrankie to Glen Garry stretch of the A9, which is being turned into dual carriageway in a £3 billion project, is "subject to statutory process".

The public inquiry comes after pressure from the KilliecrAnkie 1689 group, set up to protect the designated battlefield. The campaigners said that Transport Scotland was sent 200



The Battle of Killiecrankie during the first Jacobite uprising is thought to be the earliest in Britain in which hand grenades were used. A grenade fragment was found in 2004. The battle, immortalised in the song *The Braes o' Killiecrankie*, was the first in which the plug bayonet was recorded as being used by the defeated British troops.

George MacLean, of Killiecrankie 1689, said: “At first, Transport Scotland refused to tell us how many objections had been received but now, 14 weeks after the objection period closed, they confirmed the number. The process has been flawed from the start. The area of the designated battlefield should have been central to the plan so that the sensitive part of it is not damaged.”

Mr MacLean said that Historic Environment Scotland (HES) had highlighted what it called gaps in Transport Scotland’s assessment methodology. He said: “HES says that far too little research and fieldwork has been done on archaeological and physical remains . . . and Transport Scotland has not understood the relevance or importance of the battlefield’s topography and landscape. Transport Scotland is now considering what extra metal detecting, geophysical studies and trial trench work needs to be done to satisfy HES’s demands.”

A Transport Scotland spokesman said that it was not “appropriate to comment on the proposals or indeed the objections”. But he added: “As the existing A9 already runs through the site of the battlefield, any of the dual carriageway



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This is surprising as Historic (aka Hysterical) Scotland usually are keen