

KilliecrAnkie1689

19 January 2018

KILLIECRANKIE1689 WELCOMES PETE WISHART MP TO KILLIECRANKIE

The recently formed residents group, KilliecrAnkie1689, was pleased to have the opportunity to discuss their concerns about the proposed A9 dualling plan in Killiecrankie with Pete Wishart, MP for Perth and North Perthshire today.

Pete Wishart met Killiecrankie residents in the village hall and then accompanied a group to the battle field where he saw the extent of the land-take required for the proposed road.

The road is to be widened entirely on the northbound carriageway at Killiecrankie. This, according to KilliecrAnkie1689, is the worst possible design for the battle site. "It will damage or destroy 5 key features on the battlefield where over 2,000 men lost their lives in about one hour," says George MacLean, spokesman for the group.

"We are not against the plan to upgrade the existing road. What we oppose is this particular design. It will bury key features of the battle site under tonnes of material. This is the exact place where all the slaughter took place," he adds.

The Battle of Killiecrankie was fought on 27 July 1689, the first engagement of the Jacobite uprisings. It was a surprising victory for the outnumbered Highlanders who lost their charismatic leader, John Graham of Claverhouse, known to them as Bonnie Dundee, on the battlefield.

The land that is within the officially designated battle site is extensive and includes where the Jacobite battle line was formed on the hill overlooking the existing road. The Government battle line was far below, at a military disadvantage, on the flat strip of land running close to the existing northbound carriageway.

Killiecrankie1689 has marked out where the Government line would have been. The area where the fighting was concentrated is between that line and the existing road. "That is where most men fell in a ferocious burst of hand to hand combat," says George MacLean. "More men died here than at the Battle of Culloden," he adds.

Scotland has, in theory, a policy to protect, if not enhance, sites that are designated historic battlefields. This is enshrined in the Inventory of Historic Battlefields, a register that is maintained by Historic Environment Scotland. Killiecrankie battlefield was included in the first edition of the Inventory, created in 2011.

Killiecrankie1689 wants the policy to be respected in full. "Transport Scotland needs to pause the process immediately for the section of road that runs through the battle site. This stretch requires far more research and a proposal that is more in keeping with the requirements of such a renowned tourist destination and internationally famous historical area," they say.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Email: objections@killiecrankie1689.scot

Phone: 01796 635003

Read: www.killiecrankie1689.scot

Watch: <https://youtu.be/4Hdi9ZbbUTw>

Twitter: @KilliecrankieA9

Facebook: Killiecrankie1689

Information on the A9 project Killiecrankie to Glen Garry, including the Environmental Statement and draft Road Orders, is available on Transport Scotland's website: <https://www.transport.gov.scot/projects/a9-dualling-perth-to-inverness/a9-killiecrankie-to-glen-garry/>

The historic features that will be damaged or lost on the battle field are:

- i) Lagnabuaig settlement and redoubt
- ii) The memorial cairn, also known as Tomb Clavers
- iii) Raon Ruairidh settlement and redoubt
- iv) A B-listed Wall and Garden at Urrard House
- v) A terrace or 'step' that runs the length of the A9 alongside the northbound carriageway from the Wall (iv) to the Girnaig burn.

Rules and regulation for protection of historic sites and for relevant planners:

1. Brochure about Inventory of Historic Battlefields from Historic Environment Scotland : <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=c59262de-b652-4e68-b88d-a5fe008ff1c8>
2. Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS) 2016
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>
3. Managing Change in the Historic Environment : Historic Battlefields from Historic Environment Scotland 2016
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=b7a05b45-f2a9-4c71-8450-a60b0094c62e>
4. Historic Environment Circular 1 from Historic Environment Scotland 2016
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=ec209755-9bf8-4840-a1d8-a61800a9230d>

5. Our Place in Time from Historic Environment Scotland
<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/who-we-are/our-place-in-time/>
6. Planning and Archaeology 2/2011 from the Scottish Government
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/Doc/355385/0120020.pdf>
7. Scottish Planning Policy from the Scottish Government
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00453827.pdf>

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