

From the Group to Stop Development at Culloden:

Yesterday Highland Council's (HC) South Area Planning Manager issued a report on planning application 18/04194/FUL (luxury house at Culchunaig) in which, unbelievably, a recommendation was made to GRANT planning permission.

Application details here:

<https://wam.highland.gov.uk/wam/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=PEMNWTIHGOM00&activeTab=summary>

Planning Summary can be found here:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/meetings/meeting/4170/south_planning_applications_committee

This thoughtless logic, restricted to interpretation of standard 'planning considerations' in 'normal circumstances' is abhorrent, immoral and ultimately disastrous in the context of preservation of one of Scotland's historic battlefields, of national and international importance.

GSDC Admin repudiates any eventual approval by HC of these plans, and regards this nonsensical situation as both an attack and unprecedented disregard for what is known and widely documented about the site, as a location of one of the key events during the Battle of Culloden.

Culchunaig is not 'on the other side of the road' as Councillor Carolyn Caddick previously recklessly attested whilst supporting planning permission for another application (18/014719/FUL) at Stable Hollow through where the Jacobite front line was arrayed. In fact, said Councillor and Councillor Jimmy Gray in particular have both been particularly supportive of each and every development on the Battlefield.

Culchunaig though is not a site where a certain organization called 'Historic Environment Scotland' (HES) can duck out of responsibility with usual phrases like 'it is unlikely that action took place here'.

This is where Jacobite and British soldiers engaged, fought hard and bled.

And died.

No-one, HC, HES or anyone else can possibly even argue that this is a 'peripheral' part of the battlefield like some claimed at Viewhill. The proposed luxury house will be deep inside the Inventory Boundary, close to and actually on where Jacobite infantry and horse faced off against the British dragoons who had found their way behind the Jacobite right – rear flank. Culchunaig was a key strategic location on the battlefield, where fierce fighting and casualties occurred, once the charge had run into trouble and Jacobite forces retreated.

Archeological work is mentioned even to have found evidence for structures existing at the time of the battle. If this application goes through, the area around Culchunaig is as good as gone as well as all that is hidden there.

Don't take it from us alone.

Learned research of Professor Christopher Duffy is shown in the map below.

This situation represents yet another example of the ineptitude of an organization called 'Historic Environment Scotland'. What actually is the purpose, and more importantly, the accountability of HES? Patently they are simply not remotely interested. On a site where they admit 'human remains' might lie.

HES are not fit for purpose.

This application will be determined by Highland Councils' South Planning Area Committee on 17th September. Here is link to the live webcast: https://highland.public-i.tv/.../p.../webcast_interactive/411607.

One of the main 'planning considerations' raised was that the earlier planning application from 15/02941/FUL was still 'extant' (less than 3 years) at the time the later application was submitted by the applicant (September 2018) and therefore the principle of development has been established. The later application refers to modified house design and materials. So much the same as what happened with the situation at Viewhill except that this time Highland Council approved the earlier application, not an SG-appointed Reporter. So no excuses from HC this time. Don't even bother coming back with 'protocols' and 'planning considerations'.

Highland Council has totally failed Culloden Battlefield on this application.

And the planning manager in her report even managed to forget that HC were issued a notification direction by the Scottish Government.

If and when whatever happens, did you object? Please do it quickly, have your say and let your voice of reason be heard.

To help, here are the SPAC committee details, write to them and help them reach a correct decision:

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20003/committee_information/485/south_planning_applications_committee_wards_11-21/4.

These are their email addresses, write to some or the whole lot of them. Some have notably have shown their mettle. Support them to outnumber the ignorant or those who just couldn't care less.

Thanks!

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