

# Battlefield homes 'will damage nation's image'

**By Jamie Durent**

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SCOTLAND'S image risks being tarnished if the Culloden Battlefield site is not protected, it has been claimed.

Campaigners opposed to the development of 16 homes on its boundary believe that with the eyes of the world on Scotland this year, it is imperative the plan does not go ahead.

The Stop the Development at Culloden group gathered on the site at the weekend to mark the annual memorial to the battle, where more than 2000 people lost their lives.

More than 60 turned out and pledged to keep on fighting until the end, despite the Scottish Government already ratifying the reporter's decision to approve Inverness Properties' plans.

Group spokesman Colin Williamson claimed the "unparalleled desecration" of the battlefield would reflect badly on the nation.

"In such a big year for Scotland, when you've got Homecoming, Bannockburn 2014, the Commonwealth Games and the independence referendum, you have the government effectively shrugging its shoulders at this," he said.

"Nobody wants to get into a turf war with the government, but it is a site of national and international significance and we cannot believe it has been allowed to get this far."

Mr Williamson stressed that the group would not undo any of its work so far by employing any "militant" tactics and would continue to lead a clean campaign.

"The least we can ask for is someone from



A protest against plans for homes at View Hill Farm, Culloden Battlefield, on Sunday. The government or Historic Scotland to stand up and have the courage to admit mistakes



Flowers and banners laid down at the cairn.

have been made, in the interests of public decency," he said.

"All we can do now is keep our fingers crossed and hope the talks between the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and David Sutherland prove fruitful. Taking this to the court of session would just be massively expensive for us."

Efforts are being made to increase protection for battlefield sites across Scotland, with calls for certain ones to be made World Heritage Sites.

The land where the homes are planned at

Viehill Farm, which sits 400 metres outside the boundary of the battlefield, is owned by David Sutherland, who purchased it from Inverness Properties in January.

He has said he would be open to discussions with the NTS over the future of the land, with the potential of selling it to the Trust and leasing it back for agricultural use.

The inverness businessman could not be contacted yesterday but Culloden Battlefield property manager Andrew Mackenzie said talks were still ongoing and nothing had been concluded.

## Clan chiefs honour victims of Culloden

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CLAN chiefs from around the world descended on Culloden Battlefield to mark the 268th anniversary of the great battle.

Organisers estimated more than 500 people turned out on Saturday morning to pay their respects to the 2,000 soldiers who lost their lives during the final clash of the Jacobite uprising.

A walk from the visitors' centre to the memorial cairn started the ceremony, followed by an address to the Gaelic community by honorary chief Margaret Bennett. A sermon and prayer were read and clans from the Highlands and further afield laid wreaths at the cairn.

The Gaelic Society of Inverness organises the annual memorial and chairman Murdo Campbell believes it was the largest service the group had seen. "It has gathered twice in the last couple of years and the fact it coincided with Easter weekend probably helped," he said.

"We had the addition of a female chief this year for only the second time in our history, which is pretty rare. But she was very well received."

Former chairman Alan Campbell was pleased with the global reach of the event.

"It has now become a real focus and is attended by a lot of people from all over the world. The weather made it particularly enjoyable and perhaps that persuaded more people to turn out," he said.

It came in the same weekend that protesters gathered on the site to continue lobbying against plans to build homes on land 400m away from the battlefield boundary.



Tributes were laid at the cairn.



A piper at the memorial service.



Clan chiefs from around the world attended Saturday's service.

## Features

# The order to execute was scribbled on playing card



Bill McAllister

**LOUDING OFF**

**B**LACK aces and black eights have been called the dead man's hand since lawman and gunfighter Wild Bill Hickok was shot in the back in Deadwood in 1876 while holding those cards. However, 130 years earlier it was a different playing card which spelled doom to many in the Highlands.

In one battlefield and what went on there are etched in the psyche of many Scots, hence the commemoration of the battle's anniversary last weekend. But the tale of what happened following the hour-long conflict is less widely appreciated.

The vicious Duke of Cumberland had set himself up at Culloden Moor. When Jamie Prince Charlie had released the day before, and entombed a gauntlet of cards when he was asked to provide written orders on what was to be done with the considerable number of wounded prisoners.

It is said he picked up the nine of diamonds and scribbled on it a signed instruction that all the wounded should be put to death. This order was rigorously carried out.

Someday wounded Jacobites were bayoneted or shot down on the battlefield but others took refuge in nearby barns, fields or woods, while many fled as far as their injuries would allow. Troops hunted them down, dragging wounded men from where they lay in hiding near the battlefield and prodding them up so they could be shot.

In one case, 15 wounded Jacobite officers had hidden for two days in a small plantation in the grounds of Culloden House but were discovered and taken in carts to a wall a short distance away. They were lined up and shot, their officer instructing them to club with muskets the heads of the corpses to make sure they were dead.

Amazingly, John Fraser from the Master of Lovat's regiment, still lived despite being shot and a musket butt breaking his cheek and



Culloden Battlefield remains a haunting place today.

taking the sight of one eye. Fortunately for him Lord Body, son of the Earl of Kilmarnock, took pity on him and ordered his servant to conceal Fraser in a nearby cottage.

Fraser hid there for three months until he was well enough to escape.

Fleeing clansmen on what is now Millburn Road in Inverness as they tried to find safety in the town, while being taken prisoner and led into town to captivity, Lady Mackintosh of Moy counted 14 bodies on the road from Culloden.

As wounded Jacobites died, Hanoverian troops paid beggars to carry their naked bodies to the Old High churchyard and bury them there.

Cumberland was determined there would be no further Jacobite rebellion and his view was that those who had taken up arms against his father, King George, had forfeited any right to humane treatment. And, of course, he was greatly frustrated that Charles Edward Stuart was not dead or captured, souring his triumph.

John Hossack, former Provost of Inverness,

had been a strong supporter of the House of Hanover, working closely with Duncan Forbes, Lord President, who dissuaded some clans from rising for the Prince.

Sickened by the slaughter, Hossack proceeded to Culloden House and asked Cumberland "to mitigate mercy with judgment" and bring the king to justice. As the royalist Hawley cried: "Damn the puppy! Does he pretend to dictate here? Carry him away!"

His soldiers threw the unfortunate Hossack down two flights of stairs. The councilor was jailed, along with the current Provost, John Fraser, but they were released a day later.

The Town House in Inverness became the Hammarby Gaol, where churches were turned into prisons.

Deserters from Cumberland's army who had fought on the Jacobite side were particularly hunted down, the Duke offering reward for their capture. Some 36 such men were identified and hanged in Inverness.

One of them was called Forbes and he was related to Duncan Forbes. He had been with an English regiment until local sentiment

saw him switch allegiance. As his hanged body dangled, an English officer stabbed Forbes with his sword, shouting that "all his countrymen were traitors and rebels like himself."

A Scottish officer promptly pulled out his sword and challenged the Englishman to a duel. The began a sword fight, in which other officers of both nationalities joined in.

Seeing such remarkable scuffles, the ordinary troops followed suit, the Scots on one side of the street and the English on the other, jabbing bayonets at one another.

Cumberland, who had been in the Town House, was alerted and rushed to the scene, where he prevailed on all parties to calm down.

Cumberland made a point of commanding the Scots – there were a great many on his side in the battle – for their loyalty, soothing rattled feathers. Indeed, there were as many Scots fighting on the Hanoverian side at Culloden as there were in the mainly Highland Jacobite force.

Excluding those killed in the battle who lie in mass graves, one estimate is that 120 men were killed and 80 died of wounds in prison. Some 320 Jacobites, predominantly Highland but including Irish volunteers, were transported to the Colonies, never to see their homeland again. A further 222 fighters were banished from the kingdom, most making their way to France or Italy.

The fate of a further 700 men has never been known, though it is thought to have been cut down in the wake of the order on the nine of diamonds and lie in unmarked graves.

The consequence of Cumberland's scribble on that card was to be catastrophic for Inverness and the Highlands. It was to prove similarly so to the Duke's reputation.

The nickname Butcher was given to him for his post-battle inhumanity. It has echoed down the centuries.



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