



Stay off battlefield, developers warned

BY LAURA PATERSON

CAMPAIGNERS battling to block plans for houses at historic Culloden have vowed to send developers "back to their drawing boards to think again".

Yesterday, they staged the fourth in a series of protests against proposals for homes at the edge of what is viewed around the globe as a sacred piece of ground.

And there were calls for Culloden Battlefield to be given World Heritage Site status to prevent any future plans for development being tabled.

Highland Council rejected proposals for a 16-house scheme within a few hundred yards of the war grave.

The decision was overturned by a Scottish Government planning reporter – causing outrage not only in the UK but also abroad.

Campaign group administrator Paul Jamieson warned developers yesterday: "You're not building on this battlefield where people lie buried."



Full story, Pages 2 and 3

LONG-DISTANCE ALLY: Joyce MacKenzie, from Canada, added her voice to the protest over the Culloden housing plans



Max: 18c
Min: 4c

Weather in full: Page 4

LOCAL

Relief as crews douse wildfire

Residents have praised firefighters who battled a major wildfire on the outskirts of Inverness which raged for more than four hours and came within 60ft of threatening their homes. Page 5

SCOTTISH

Warning over skin cancer

Scots are increasingly at risk of developing deadly skin cancer thanks to the rise of package holidays and the fashion for tans, Cancer Research UK has warned. Page 15

NATIONAL

All smiles for Queen at 88

A new portrait of Her Majesty the Queen by the photographer David Bailey has been released to celebrate her 88th birthday. Page 18

SPORT

Britain's call to County fans

Ross County captain Richard Brittain issued a rallying call to supporters to turn out in numbers again against Kilmarnock at home on Saturday, despite the frustration of the 2-0 defeat by Hearts. Page 60



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Group draws line in homes

Campaign: Around 60 people attend Culloden demonstration on same



GATHERING: Hundreds turned out for the Culloden anniversary service. Photographs: David Whittaker-Smith

BY LAURA PATERSON

New battle lines were drawn at Culloden at the weekend on the anniversary of the historic defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army by government forces.

The modern-day fight at the historic site is over plans for homes that threaten to encroach on the war graves of the more than 1,500 men.

Campaigners determined to block plans for 16 homes at Viewfield - within the battlefield "inventory" site - staged a protest at the field's memorial cairn, where they had laid a wreath the day before in memory of those who died.

Yesterday, they vowed not to give up and called for the wider battlefield to be made a World Heritage Site to safeguard it from future development.

Highland Council rejected plans for the 16-home development within a few hundred yards of the battlefield but the decision was recently overturned by a Scottish Government planning reporter, causing

outrage not only in the UK but abroad.

More than 16,000 people signed a petition organised by the campaign group and yesterday's protest was its fourth - following two at the Scottish Parliament and one at Culloden last month.

Addressing a crowd of about 60 people who had gathered at the memorial cairn - many carrying flags and in Highland dress - campaign group administrator Paul Jamieson vowed they would not give up.

He issued a stark pledge to Inverness businessman David Sutherland, who owns the land at Viewfield, that the houses would not be built.

He said: "You're not going to walk over us, not you or any of the other developers. You're not building on this battlefield where people lie buried. We will send you back to your drawing board to think again."

Bonnie Prince Charlie himself - in the guise of re-enactor Aaran Johnston - said: "It's important that the soul of this place is protected and preserved, not



Dr Margaret Bennett lays the Gaelic Society wreath

Protest: Call to protect heritage

Kiltmaker Joyce MacKenzie travelled from her home in Canada to see the battlefield and planned housing site.

She said: "It shouldn't be happening. Development within the battlefield inventory should be refused."

"Historic Scotland

did not oppose the development and my question is 'why not?'

"There are millions of people living in North America that are there because of what happened at Culloden."

She now wants World Heritage status to protect the site.



Men await to lay their floral tributes

Man rescued from cliff fall

EMERGENCY

A dramatic four-hour rescue was carried out on one of Scotland's most remote islands after a man plunged 40ft into a sea cave.

The alarm was raised by text message because the telephone signal was so poor on Handa, a nature reserve three miles off the north-west coast of Sutherland.

Rescuers said the 23-year-old man had "a lucky escape" and was finally air-

lifted to the Western Isles Hospital at Stornoway with several broken bones at 12.30am on Saturday.

The alarm was raised around 8.30pm on Friday when the seasonal Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) warden on the normally uninhabited tiny island texted that the man had fallen over a cliff.

Lochinver lifeboat was launched at 8.40pm and managed to get its smaller Y-boat into the cave to rescue the man.

Stornoway Coastguard search and rescue heli-

copter then airlifted him to hospital.

A Stornoway Coastguard spokeswoman said: "It was a difficult rescue. The information of what had happened was being sent by text by the warden because the phone signal was too poor for voice communications."

"He had fallen on to rocks and into the sea cave. Even though he has a number of broken bones he has had a lucky escape. It could have been far worse."

The island is a seasonal magnet for 6,000 bird-

watchers and walkers. In the summer, more than 100,000 seabirds, including puffins, guillemots and razorbills, gather on Handa to breed.

The red sandstone island and its steep cliffs are now recognised as one of Scotland's best sanctuaries for a wide range of seabirds and it is managed by the SWT.

Owned by the Scourie Estate, it is manned in the summer by four long-term SWT volunteers as well as 45 short-term volunteers who visit for a week at a time.

IN BUSINESS TODAY

Queen's Awards winners in Scotland revealed

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protest

weekend as memorial

just in the commemorations that have taken place this weekend but in the way that it is treated, and the landscape.

"It's not just a fight about this field; it's about all battlefields and heritage sites."

Campaign spokesman Colin Williamson said he wanted to see the wider battlefield area protected by tough laws.

He said: "One of the most iconic battlefields is facing an act of unprecedented desecration. The men who

"We will send you back to your drawing board to think again"

fell on this field wrote history with their blood.

"This is not acceptable. It is a very unwise and worrying precedent. The 16 houses to be built are the trickle that could become a flood.

"We feel the government could have done more. They will say the planning process has been followed, but this is Culloden. It's a very significant field and a site of international historic significance. Culloden has flagged up flaws in the system.

"Culloden is a historic

site. The Scottish Government are the people who legislate and they need to legislate for this."

Mr Williamson said his group remained confident action would be taken to preserve Culloden, despite the Scottish Government's position that the only challenge to the reporter's decision could be through a potentially expensive case in the Court of Session.

He said: "We've got to be positive. Everybody here, regardless of the numbers, has come because they have a passion for this field and a love for history and want to preserve it."

Joyce MacKenzie travelled from Ontario in Canada to take part in the protest and said she wanted to see Culloden become a World Heritage Site.

She said: "If the nation can't protect it, we need to get a status that will protect it. It needs to become a World Heritage Site. That will give it the protection it deserves."

Inverness Properties, which was granted permission for the homes at Viewfield, said previously that the development would not be visible from the main battlefield and the homes would be replacing run-down farm buildings.

Mr Sutherland declined to comment last night.

Comment, Page 30



MARCH: Many protesters wore Highland dress and waved flags on the march to the Culloden Memorial

Hundreds turn out to remember battle's victims

MEMORIAL

BY LAURA PATERSON

Hundreds of people gathered at Culloden before yesterday's lively protest for a much more sombre event - the annual memorial service.

Organised by the Gaelic Society of Inverness, this

year's service was attended by more than 200 people including record numbers of clan chiefs.

They met at the battlefield visitor centre before proceeding to the memorial cairn on Saturday morning where the service marking the anniversary of the battle on April 16, 1746, took place.

Society chairman Murdo

Campbell and chief Margaret Bennett addressed the mourners and the Rev Kenneth Macleod read a prayer, which was followed by a lament by Ronald MacLean.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the society and the National Trust for Scotland, which cares for the battlefield, as well as dozens of organisations

from Scotland and overseas, including the protesters fighting plans for housing near the site.

Several clan chiefs or family representatives were there, including Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart, Celia Mackintosh of Mackintosh, the Earl of Cromartie who is Chief of Clan MacKenzie, Lois MacDonnell of Glangarry, Donald Cameron of

Lochiel and Alexander Brodie of Brodie.

Chairman of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies, Graeme Mackenzie, of Inverness, regularly attends the service and believes it is attracting more and more people every year.

He said: "There was a very good turnout of chiefs and of people in general. I

think there has been gradual increase in the number of people going over the past few years. There are probably more clans being represented now.

"The annual service is important because it keeps the battle in the memory of people and it is also important it is held at the time of year when the battle took place.

Former care home manager struck off

HEARING

A former Inverness care home manager has been struck off for a string of failings.

A Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) disciplinary hearing found Paul Frampton

made a series of blunders while manager of the city's Mayfield Lodge care home.

The body's conduct subcommittee found Mr Frampton completed a record card indicating that he had given a patient an antibiotic early in the

morning when, in fact, he did not administer it until later that day.

He was also found to have neglected the same patient because there was an unreasonable delay in collecting a prescription for antibiotics.

He also failed to record

or tell his colleagues the results of a test from another patient, resulting in the resident taking antibiotics unnecessarily for two days.

A report issued by the SSSC said Mr Frampton had committed serious misconduct.

The report said: "He had

not demonstrated any real insight into his actions and the impact his actions had on others. There was no genuine expression of regret or apologies.

"Removal order was the only appropriate sanction available which would safeguard the interests of ser-

vice users, the public and the reputation of the social services profession."

Five other charges were not proven. He was the manager from July 2011 until April last year.

A spokeswoman at the home declined to comment.

ACCIDENT

Biker dies in Skye crash

A motorcyclist was killed in an accident on Skye yesterday - three days after police launched a campaign aimed at cutting the biker death toll on north roads.

The 33-year-old was heading south on the A87 between Invermoriston and Uig when he lost control of his machine.

His badly damaged motorbike ended up in a burn down a slope on the opposite side of the road.

The rider died at the scene of the crash near Loch Ainort, north of Broadford.

The death was the 13th motorcycle fatality on roads in the Highlands and islands in the past two years.

A police spokesman said yesterday: "Despite efforts at the scene to administer medical treatment, the 33-year-old male rider died.

"Police investigators

"This highlights the problem that we have"

are currently in attendance and the road will be closed for examinations to take place and a diversion is in place for cars only.

"There are no further details available until next of kin have been traced and informed."

Three days ago, police launched a new campaign - Operation Zenith - to tackle the number of bikers killed or seriously injured on the region's roads.

Inspector Neil Lumsden, of the divisional road policing unit, said the Highlands and islands division dealt with more crashes in which bikers were killed or seriously injured than any other division in Scotland.

Drew Millar, who represents Skye, said: "My condolences go out to the family of this poor soul. This highlights the problem that we have with the traffic on the roads."