

# KilliecrAnkie1689

## SCOTTISH MINISTER BYPASS PROTECTION OF HISTORIC BATTLEFIELD

25 November 2022

Scottish Ministers who make key decisions on the planned dualling of the A9 trunk road by-passed an opportunity to protect the Killiecrankie battlefield, says KilliecrAnkie1689, the group that campaigned for a sensitive road plan over the historic site.

Objectors to Transport Scotland's proposals at Killiecrankie received word of the Ministers' decision on 10 November 2022 to accept Transport Scotland's plan to dual over the northbound carriageway.

"This means that a dual carriageway will be constructed over the most sensitive part of the battlefield where the fiercest fighting was concentrated," says George MacLean.

A Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the plans was held in early 2020 but the Report of the PLI was delayed by Covid. As a result, it was not completed until June 2022.

Scottish Ministers are the ultimate arbiters on the new road. They can accept or reject all or part of the final scheme that has been presented.

"We are disappointed that they did not take the chance to correct a flaw which was identified in the course of the Inquiry. The Reporter wrote that it is "understandable" that we want to protect the highly sensitive core area but, in this planning process, the heart of the battlefield has no special status," says George MacLean.

The Reporter also understood why objectors want to minimise the footprint of the new road on the battlefield by barring lay-bys on the battlefield. The Reporter wrote: "I can well understand why objectors would seek to have the lay-bys sited outwith the battlefield, and especially so as only 3.6km of the dualled route would run through the battlefield. It might in fact seem perverse not to have done so."

George MacLean says that there should have been a veto on lay-bys on the battlefield right at the start of the planning process. Then Transport Scotland or Jacobs, the design engineers, could have found safe locations elsewhere.

The Reporter qualified his recommendation to Ministers by saying that should they wish to reduce the footprint of the scheme within the battlefield, they could reconsider the question of including lay-bys there. "In other words, Ministers had the opportunity to remove lay-bys. It is shocking that they chose not to do so. They missed a chance to live up to their ambition to protect historic sites," says George MacLean.

#### NOTES FOR EDITORS

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1. Report of Public Local Inquiry  
<https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/pdfs/report-to-the-scottish-ministers-9-june-2022-killiecrankie-to-glen-garry-a9-dualling.pdf>
2. Decision Letter 10 November 2022  
<https://www.killiecrankievillagehall.co.uk/community-council/pdfs/A9-Killiecrankie-to-Glen-Garry-Signed-Decision-Letter-November-2022.pdf>

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