

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields

The Battle of Glenshiel

Designation Record

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is a list of nationally important battlefields in Scotland. A battlefield is of national importance if it makes a contribution to the understanding of the archaeology and history of the nation as a whole, or has the potential to do so, or holds a particularly significant place in the national consciousness. For a battlefield to be included in the Inventory, it must be considered to be of national importance either for its association with key historical events or figures; or for the physical remains and/or archaeological potential it contains; or for its landscape context. In addition, it must be possible to define the site on a modern map with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

The aim of the Inventory is to raise awareness of the significance of these nationally important battlefield sites and to assist in their protection and management for the future. Inventory battlefields are a material consideration in the planning process. The Inventory is also a major resource for enhancing the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of historic battlefields, for promoting education and stimulating further research, and for developing their potential as attractions for visitors.

Contents

Name	Date of Addition to Inventory
Alternative Name(s)	Date of Last Update
Date of Battle	Overview and Statement of
Local Authority	Significance
NGR Centred	Inventory Boundary

Inventory of Historic Battlefields

GLENSHIEL

Alternative Names: None

10 June 1719

Local Authority: Highland

NGR centred: NH 996 137

Date of Addition to Inventory: 21 March 2011

Date of last update: 14 December 2012

Overview and Statement of Significance

Glenshiel is significant as the sole battle fought during the 1719 Jacobite Rising. The 1719 Rising was the only one conducted with Spanish support, where it was usually the French who assisted the Jacobite cause, and is the second last of the risings in Scotland. The battlefield itself is also significant as one of very few within Scotland where extant field fortifications survive, and for the first known use of coehorn mortars in battle by the British Army.

The catalyst for the 1719 Rising was the outbreak of war between Spain and Britain in 1718. The Spanish saw the benefit of resurrecting a Jacobite uprising for increasing pressure on the British government and helped to re-ignite their cause with the offer of an alliance and assistance in war.

The Spanish forces set out to invade Britain in March 1719. The fleet was wrecked by a storm and the invasion abandoned, but a small contingent of Jacobite and Spanish troops landed in Scotland. A Government force was dispatched from Inverness to counter the threat and met the Jacobite and Spanish army already in position on the steep slopes of Glenshiel. The following Government victory saw few losses on either side, with the majority of the Jacobite troops fleeing the field in the early stages of the battle. The Jacobite defeat at Glenshiel marked the end of the 1719 uprising.

Inventory Boundary

The Inventory boundary defines the area in which the main events of the battle are considered to have taken place (landscape context) and where associated physical remains and archaeological evidence occur or may be expected (specific qualities). The landscape context is described under *battlefield landscape*: it encompasses areas of fighting, key movements of troops across the landscape and other important locations, such as the positions of camps or vantage points. Although the landscape has changed since the time of the battle, key characteristics of the terrain at the time of the battle can normally still be identified, enabling events to be more fully understood and interpreted in their landscape context. Specific qualities are described under *physical remains and potential*: these include landscape features that played a significant role in the battle, other physical remains, such as enclosures or built structures, and areas of known or potential archaeological evidence.

Inventory of Historic Battlefields

The Inventory boundary for the Battle of Glenshiel is defined on the accompanying map and includes the following areas:

- Key positions of the battlefield landscape defined on Bastide's plans of the battle. The start of the Government line on the flood plain to the north of the river (opposite Lùb nan Coileach); the position of the Jacobite left and the advance of the Government line on the lower north slopes of Spanish Hill; the outcrop of Bealach nan Spainteach where Government troops are shown in formation; the approach road of the Government left on the south side of the river and the Jacobite forward position on a prominent outcrop on the south slopes of the glen.
- Earthworks associated with the static positions of the Jacobite army on the promontory on the north slopes of Spanish Hill.
- The upper slopes of Spanish Hill and westward along the valley base. The probable route of the Jacobite flight.
- The well preserved landscape features of the glen including the intact elements of the northern and southern slopes of the glen, the River Shiel, the valley floor and the surviving course of the old military road.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields - Boundary

Glenshiel

10 June 1719

Local Authority: Highland

196000

197000

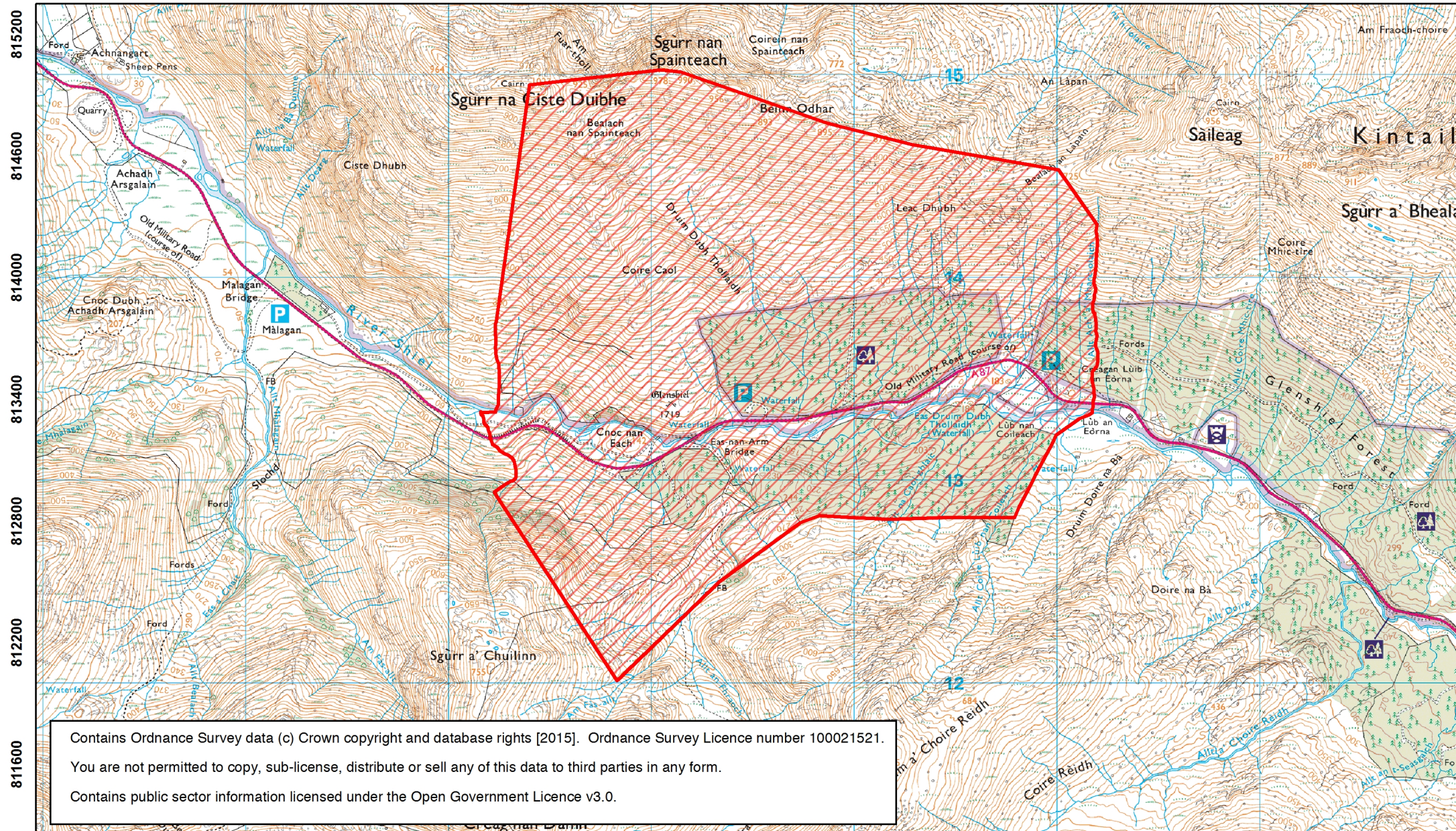
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Inventory of Historic Battlefields boundary

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Meters