

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields

The Battle of Inverlochy II

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.

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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

INVERLOCHY II

Alternative Names: None

2 February 1645

Local Authority: Highland

NGR centred: NN 125 753

Date of Addition to Inventory: 30 November 2011

Date of last update: 14 December 2012

Overview and Statement of Significance

The second battle of Inverlochy is significant as one of the Marquis of Montrose's greatest victories, utilising a daring and gruelling forced march to surprise his enemies. His success at Inverlochy also boosts recruitment to his army. Among the new recruits was Lord Gordon, bringing his own cavalry regiments and handing Elgin to Royalist control. Conversely, Argyll's second defeat at Montrose's hands weakens his position, both amongst the Covenanters and his own people. After Inverlochy, the Covenanters also established the Committee of Estates. Its purpose was to support Baillie in future efforts, but this proved to be a disaster in the long run.

Inverlochy II was fought between the supporters of the Royalist cause under James Graham, the Marquis of Montrose, and the Covenanters under the command of Archibald Campbell, Marquis of Argyll, although he did not take direct command of his forces on the day. The battle was a resounding victory for the Royalists, destroying the Covenanter army and crippling their cause, along with Argyll's own strength in the region.

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.

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

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- The southern bank of the River Lochy, on which is located Inverlochy Castle and which provided the northern limit of the battlefield.
- The foot of the steep slopes of the Ben Nevis massif to the south-east and across the mouth of Glen Nevis, as the line of approach of Montrose's forces.
- The area to the north-west of Tom na Faire, as the direction Argyll's forces were driven back.
- To the east the approach of Montrose's army from the direction of Torlundy is accommodated, as is the ridge of higher ground which may have provided a slope for the Highland army to charge down.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields - Boundary

Inverlochy II

2 February 1645

Local Authority: Highland

