

Fields of Conflict Database: User Manual

The GIS database is designed to contain succinct information. More detailed description and analysis is contained in the report and gazetteer.

Three GIS (MapInfo) databases have been created:

- *'UK Fields of Conflict'*
- *'UKFOC Feature'*
- *'UK Conflict related features'*

The detail for each MapInfo Table is given below. The UK Fields of Conflict database is the primary dataset and includes most of the key facts about each site. Other information such as bibliographic sources will be found in the gazetteer, to be used in conjunction with it and the Report.

The numbers and sub-numbers allocated to records in the 'UK Fields of Conflict' and 'UKFOC Feature' tables are fixed. Should future research determine a new location for a particular action the original record should not be altered or deleted as it will remain valid as having been a potential location. Should a location be proven conclusively to have been the scene of the action the record associated with it will have the value '0' in the sub-number field, all other number being recognised as spurious alternatives.

Users should be aware:

- *of the need to search both the 'UK Fields of Conflict' table and the 'UKFOC Feature' table.*
- *that sources often use different names for any given event or place and names change over time. The name a user is familiar with for a particular battle may not be the one recorded in the 'action name' field. Users must check the 'name alternative' field in 'UK Fields of Conflict' table.*
- *that sites which are unlocated within a parish have a polygon area taken from the current parish boundary. It must be remembered that this may not be the same parish area as described in the earlier sources, and indeed the event may prove to have occurred well beyond this area even though that parish or place name was given to the action.*

As this is a UK database it contains fields that are at present relevant only to England (e.g. BTrust Assessment, and OS map sheet fields). Therefore these fields will remain empty for Scottish battlefields in the current project.

In addition to this the quality of the secondary sources and the resources available for the project will not allow all relevant fields to be completed for all the actions listed. Where practicable, those actions which have received further research and assessment for a gazetteer entry have had some of the additional fields completed.

1. 'UK Fields of Conflict' database

Criteria for inclusion on the database

All recorded battles and other fields of conflict have been added to the database. Every 'published' action is included, even where it is considered that the event is or is likely to be spurious, so that it can be classified as to validity, to avoid confusion in future. What have not been included are individual acts of violence by a very small number of individuals, for example duels.

Graphic objects

Graphic objects are all point location symbols to enable national scale distribution mapping. Use of centroids for polygons for this purpose has been avoided as they move according to the shape of the polygon; thus the centroid of a polygon may not lie near the centre of the action. Any polygon data is held in a separate table linked by the UKFOC number / sub number.

Polygon data, where required to define the extent of a battlefield, will not be attached to this database but created as a separate data set, to enable the UKFOC database to be used for distribution mapping.

No record to be deleted, only marked as no longer current. This will ensure that there is no loss of data.

The dictionaries of specialist terms have been defined for the specific needs of the battlefields database in the absence of relevant terms in the English Heritage Thesauri.

Multiple entries in any field to be separated by commas.

The following are guidance notes for completion of particular fields in the UKFOC database, defined with reference to the MIDAS guidance (version: 30/06/2004). Underlined field names have linked supporting discussion following the table.

In Field Type: mandatory is used to indicate that this particular field must be completed *where the data is known*. For many of the 'lesser' sites little information is available particularly with regard to location and date.

Field Name	Definition	Additional Information	Field Type
UKFOC Number	Unique identifier for each action within the Battlefield Trust's databases	Non-hierarchical. Numbers are assigned sequentially, starting from 1, as each action is entered into the database. The number is not linked to importance of the action or site	Mandatory
Sub number	Subordinate number for actions with more than one possible location. E.g. 174.1; 174.2 etc. Unique within UKFOC number. This is always 0 where no alternative site has been entered.	Non-hierarchical. Numbers are assigned sequentially as they are entered into the database and are not linked to the likely accuracy of site: i.e. Bannockburn 1 is not necessarily a more valid location than Bannockburn 5. Components of the site are held within a separate MapInfo database table 'UKFOC Feature' linked by the UKFOC Number & sub number.	Mandatory

Where a site has more than one possible location for an action then sub-numbers are used. Alternative locations will receive the same UKFOC number, to link it to the principle record, with a sub-number to identify it as an alternative site for the same event. No precedence is given to the allocation of sub-numbers but if a site is considered by assessment of the Battlefields Trust to be the probable primary location this will be indicated in the 'comments' field of the record.

Where a site location from the HER differs to that from the NMRS the NMRS location

<p>will take precedence if the HER location is within 200m or if there is no additional information from the HER that warrants a separate location and sub-record. Where the HER location is at a distance greater than 200m and is based on additional information it is given a separate location with a sub UKFOC number, as at Bannockburn and Sheriffmuir.</p> <p>If the HER has given additional information as to why their location differs to that of the NMRS this will be assessed to determine which location is likely to be the most accurate.</p>			
Action name	The Battlefield Trust's preferred name for the action, typically the commonly accepted name	Where several actions from different periods have the same name, such as Falkirk and Dunbar, they are distinguished by addition of Roman numerals, as Falkirk I and Falkirk II etc. with the earliest action date taking the number I.	Mandatory
<p>The most commonly used/accepted name of the site. However many of the names used for lesser Scottish actions are derived from the NMRS which records the name of a place rather than a name of an action. Often but not always they are synonymous. Where names and alternative names have been derived from the NMRS they have been retained in capitals.</p>			
Name alternatives	Alternative or former name(s)		
Date	Specific date of primary action		
Year	Year in which action took place		
Year/date alternative	Alternative dates for action	Includes dates of actions where sources disagree	
Century	Century in which action took place		
War period	<p>Stuart Uprisings (Post Medieval): 1661-1746</p> <p>Civil Wars (Post Medieval): 1639-1660</p> <p>Post Medieval (Early): 1501-1638</p> <p>High Medieval: 1067-1500</p> <p>Early Medieval: 411-1066</p> <p>Roman: AD43-410</p>	1066 considered of UK wide significance due to the resulting impact of Norman military action on the whole of Britain.	Mandatory
War	Individual war within war period. E.g. 2 nd Scottish War of Independence 1332 - 1363		
<p>Individual wars within a war period, e.g. Scottish Civil War 1307 – 1309. Where the term 'unclassified' appears it denotes that an assessment has been made of this record but it has not been possible on the information available to make a classification. Where there is no data in the field it denotes that no assessment has been made of this record. Clan skirmishes and other local actions have not been studied in detail and the sources frequently give little detail. Where an action took place during a particular war as at Carn Mharbh Dhaoine in 1691 (during the period of the 1st Jacobite Rising) but the</p>			

secondary source used does not indicate that it was linked to the Rising then it has been left as unclassified. Further work is needed on these lesser actions to define associations with war periods. Some are possibly personal feuds between civil parties unrelated to national or international warfare.			
Campaign	Name of individual campaign within war	Includes the events leading up to and immediately following the primary action	
War type	<i>International:</i> e.g. England / Scotland <i>National:</i> e.g. Civil War <i>Local</i> <i>Local (clan)</i> <i>International(border conflict)</i>		
<p>Actions that are classified as 'International' will have as the combatants the nationality (e.g. Scottish, English, Norse) with the 'home' or defensive force appearing in 'Combatants 1'. For conflicts between the Scottish and English, Scottish will always appear in the field 'Combatants 1' when within the contemporary area of Scotland, where this is known. For conflicts between the Norse and the Scots the situation is more complex and the 'home' force is far more dependant on date and geographical location. For the few records of actions between Scots and Norse where no date is given the 'home' force has been taken as Scots.</p> <p>No priority is assigned to 'Combatants 1' where the action is 'National'. Actions that are classified as 'National' will have as the combatants the name of the principal force/side, e.g. Royalist, Parliamentarian, Jacobite, Government. The latter can imply the Crown or Parliament depending on the period. For periods that are particularly complex the name of the war leader will follow the term 'Government', e.g. 'Government (Bruce I)'. Actions that are classified as 'Local' or 'Clan' will have as the combatants the name of the Clan, or the name of the principal commander as given in the source but no attempt has been made to establish which was the offensive and which the defensive force.</p>			
Type of action	<i>Battle</i> <i>Skirmish</i> <i>Raid</i> <i>Massacre</i> <i>Judicial combat</i> <i>Siege</i>	Where the type of action is not given in the source or is uncertain, as at Dunkeld, it is recorded as 'unclassified' in the database.	
Numbers engaged	Approximate probable total number of combatants	Zero indicates undetermined	
<p>The total number of troops involved in the battle. This will have been rounded to give a broad idea of the scale of the action. For details regarding numbers on each side, breakdown of troop type, i.e. cavalry, infantry etc, and source for numbers given, the gazetteer should be consulted. There is often a wide disparity between secondary sources, particularly for medieval battles because of the extreme exaggeration of numbers quoted in most medieval chronicles, e.g. Falkirk I has a range of numbers from 6,000 Scottish (Reid 2004), 30,000 Scottish (Smurthwaite 1993), to the ludicrous 80,000 English (Warner 1995).</p>			
NMR NUMLINK	Unique identifier supplied by NMRS	English & Welsh identifiers to be added	
NMR traditional reference	For NMRS: OS quarter sheet (1:10000) number on which a site is located + individual		

	site number		
HER	Name of local HER		
HER Number	Individual local HER record number		
Record Veracity	Reliability of source where primary documentary evidence is scant or non-existent.	Refers to 'traditional' sites where evidence is poor. This field is not completed for secure sites e.g. Culloden	
<p>There are a number of sites said to be 'traditionally' the location of a conflict with little or no supporting evidence and often no date and no indication of combatants. This field indicates the type of source on which the tradition is based, as given by the NMRS and assessed by the Battlefields Trust.</p> <p>E.g. place name, OS, Name book, antiquarian (all pre 1900 secondary sources), secondary source (all post 1900), burial, artefact, features.</p> <p>Additional information regarding the type of artefact or feature is given in the comments field for the record.</p>			
Professional Judgement	Initial grading assessed by professional judgement	Numeric field with a scale of 0 – 3 with 0 being the lowest.	
<p>A zero score is given to records that do not have sufficient information to be confident of their veracity. For example there are a number of sites such as 'Bloody moss plantation' and 'Lag Nan Susunnach' that have no data re combatants or date. Many of these sites are based on local traditions and often linked to features such as cairns but with no evidence of an action having taken place. Similarly there are locations that have a tenuous link to a period because of a place or feature name e.g. 'Bruce's Cairn' or 'Wallace's Thorn' but again with no evidence of an action having occurred. Other locations may have additional evidence in the form of artefact finds or the discovery of human remains as at 'Cairnholy'. But where these are undated and cannot be linked with confidence to a particular action, or cannot be securely identified as being battle related then the score has been given as zero as it is not thought that these sites can be judged to be as valid as others that have specific information.</p> <p>A score of zero does not imply that the record is invalid and should be dismissed. Rather the rating is given to those sites that need considerably more research to establish their authenticity but on the present evidence there is sufficient room for doubt.</p> <p>Some of the sites rated as 1 may have little evidence but have been judged as having a high probability of an action having taken place.</p>			
NGR easting	British National Grid Reference (NGR) eastings specifying site location	numeric 6 figure for the probable focus of the action generated by MapInfo from the location of the map symbol	Mandatory
NGR northing	British National Grid Reference (NGR) northings specifying site location	numeric 6 figure for the probable focus of the action generated by MapInfo from the location of the map symbol	Mandatory
NGR Traditional	6 figure NGR with OS 100km sq. numbers. E.g. TL156081		
Locational Accuracy	Accuracy of location of action as assessed by Battlefields Trust	Numeric field on scale of 0 – 5 with 5 being the most accurate	

The likely accuracy with which the point location is positioned:

0 unlocated

Not identified to a specific place or parish, only to a wide region.

1 vague alternatives

Not identified to a specific place but alternatives a distance of circa 5km or more have been suggested. E.g.: Brunanburh and Dexastan

2 approximate

Identified as being in or near a specific place or parish. E.g.: Dalnaspidal or Pitgavenny

3 alternative sites

Identified as being in or near a specific place or parish but where more than one site has been suggested and where the centres of the sites are within less than circa 5km. E.g.: Bannockburn and Falkirk I

4 secure

Located with confidence to a specific area where the point location of the centre of the initial main action is likely to be accurate to $\pm 500m$, but where uncertainties remain over exact location and extent of deployments/action and battlefield extent. eg: Dunbar II.

5 accurate

Located with confidence to a specific area and where the point location of the centre of the initial main action is likely to be accurate to $\pm 250m$. Accurate and secure placing of deployments/action and definition of battlefield extent. E.g.; Culloden

Location Source	Source from which the mapped location derives		Mandatory
Country	England Northern Ireland Scotland Wales		
Historic County	Former county in which site is located	England: source Kain & Oliver	
Modern Administrative Unit	Current administrative unit: Unitary authority / county	Source: Ordnance Survey digital map data	Mandatory
Parish	Current administrative parish in England & Wales, 'historic' parish in Scotland	Source Ordnance survey digital map data Scottish parish from GROS data set	Mandatory
Historic Terrain	Probable land use at the time of the battle. List of standard terms to be defined	It has not been possible to complete this field within the current project. For some Scottish sites this can be established with a limited degree of accuracy from the RCAHMS Historic Land Use Assessment.	

It has not been possible to assess the historic terrain of individual battles as part of this project. This is partly due to time constraints but also due to the ongoing nature of the HLA survey, meaning large areas of land have not yet been mapped. Ideally the historic terrain should be classified through detailed research on historic maps and other primary data.

Designations	<i>Registered</i> <i>Extensive</i> <i>Partial</i> <i>Minor</i> <i>None</i>	Registered Battlefield in England only. Other designations are assessed as to coverage and hence relevance to the management of the battlefield. They are identified in the gazetteer and can include: Scheduled Ancient Monument. Conservation area. Designed Landscape ('Register of Parks and Gardens' – English Heritage data set; 'Historic Garden and Designed Landscape' - Scottish Natural Heritage data set. This has only been completed for the sites subject to detailed assessment or a designation directly related to a battlefield component (e.g.: scheduled mass grave)	
Importance: military/political		Numeric field on scale of 1-3 with 3 being the most important. Only defined for battles assessed in the gazetteer	
	<p>1 outcomes of little or only local significance</p> <p>2 significant in the initiation or continuation of a war but was not decisive in military terms and did not have long term political implications (e.g.: Auldearn or Falkirk II)</p> <p>3 major political or military impact such as a key turning point in a war (e.g.: Bannockburn or Culloden) and/or long term outcomes such as change of political control (e.g.: Largs or Lumphanan); saw application of important new tactics or military equipment which substantially influenced the outcome (e.g.: Pinkie); a victory determined by the abilities of a commander and/or quality of an army (eg: Dunbar II or Stirling Bridge).</p>		
Battle Importance, cultural perception: (bibliographic quantity)	Quantity of published bibliographic entries recovered from searches of specified general books on battles/battlefields.	See Appendix 3	
Battle Importance, cultural perception: (Individual bibliographic quantity)	Quantity of published bibliographic entries recovered from specified searches of name(s) of individual battles/battlefields	See UKFOC bibliography	
Potential: historic terrain		Requires assessment of the range of documentary and archaeological	

		evidence, which was not part of the current project	
Potential: Battle		Graded 1-3 with 3 as the highest potential. Interim assessment provided here by professional judgement for gazetteer sites only. Requires fuller assessment of the quantity and quality of primary documentary sources for the battle and likely quality and survival of battle archaeology	
Battle Array:	Were the combatants arrayed in military formation: Y/N/U(uncertain)		
Combatants Type:	<i>Regular</i> military forces <i>Irregular</i> military forces <i>Civilian</i>		
Combatants 1	Military force of home of government side e.g. Scottish when in contemporary Scotland	Where groups of forces such as individual militias or clans are known they will be included	
Combatants 2	Military force of invading or rebel side e.g. English in contemporary Scotland	Where groups of forces such as individual militias or clans are known they will be included	
Outcome	Summary result of action	A very brief summary as to which side was victorious. Detail as to losses and later implications of the battle are given in gazetteer entries.	
Assessed for Register	Assessed by English Heritage for inclusion in the Register	True/false	
Gazetteer entry	Existence of a detailed gazetteer report	True/false	
Featured on BT Website	Sites featured on the Battlefields Trust website		
OS Landranger map number	Sheet number(s) on which site is located		
OS Explorer map number	Sheet number(s) on which site is located		
OS 2" Surveyors Drawings number	Sheet number(s) on which site is located	Only relevant for England south of the Humber	
Geology 50000 map	BGS map sheet reference		
comments	Free text field	To include additional source data	

2. 'UKFOC Feature' database

The type of feature recorded in this table is given in the field 'Description'. The terms 'monument' and 'memorial' are followed by the specific type (e.g. obelisk, commemorative plaque) in brackets, where this is known. Cairns are not classified as monuments unless they have been erected to a specific person or action, such as the Jacobite memorial cairn at Culloden.

The criteria for adding a feature to the database is that it must be linked, or believed to be linked, to a specific battle. It may be a monument, mass grave or the like which is actually on or overlooking the battlefield, or at a location directly linked to the action. It can however also include certain features at locations separate from the field of conflict, sometimes at a considerable distance, as for example with the grave of a combatant killed on the field but buried elsewhere. All records in the 'UKFOC Feature' table are linked to the primary record by the UKFOC number. 169 records in Scotland have been created within this dataset. The data has been drawn from a range of sources including the NMRS 'Battle Names' extract, further searches of the Canmore database and from other secondary sources including historic Ordnance Survey maps. Where a feature has been identified from any source other than the NMRS then a search was made of the Canmore database to add the NMRS details to the record. There are only 4 sites for which no NMRS record has been identified. As the production of this database was not defined in the project design the HERs were not asked to supply specific data relating to monuments or other battle/battlefield features, therefore the present dataset may be enhanced by further location specific searches of HERs.

The features included in this dataset are typically cairns, burials, memorials etc associated with a particular battle. The association can be direct as in the case of mass graves; secondary as in the case of monuments and memorials, or tertiary as where pre battle or natural features, such as standing stones or trees, have become associated with the battle over time.

In addition to this, some sites will have major subsidiary actions, as at Bannockburn where a substantial engagement was fought on the day before the main battle. These have currently been recorded in the 'UKFOC Feature' table identifying their type in the 'description' field and linking them to the primary record with the UKFOC number. Such sites have not currently been recorded as actions in their own right because of their close association with the main action, which often took place over a wide area. However, where such sites are identifiable/locatable it is important that they are recorded as they can contribute a great deal to the understanding of the action as a whole. *Very few subsidiary actions of this type have so far been entered onto the database and it may be necessary to revise this recording method when more cases have been entered.*

The NMRS dataset is based on names. The UKFOC Feature table is based on the features those names are associated with and an item will only be added to the UKFOC Feature table where there is a particular battle to associate it with. Therefore individual features such as cairns that may be the burial site of someone killed in an individual incident that cannot be linked to a particular battle have not been added. Similarly place names that have no such link as within the parishes of Newbattle in Midlothian and Morebattle in the Scottish Borders are not included in the database. In the same way Battledykes in Angus where there are several features named Battledykes including a Roman camp but no evidence of a battle having taken place has not been added. At Battleby in Perth & Kinross there is a house and farmstead of that name but no evidence of a battle. There is however a record for the battle of Luncarty (site 1) which lies less than a mile to

the east of Battleby. It might be supposed that Battleby has some association with Luncarty but given that the evidence for any conflict occurring at Luncarty is slim at best, no connection has been made and Battleby has not been added to the database. Of note is the alternative location of Luncarty (site 2) in Fife which lies less than a mile to the east of an area called 'Battle Law' which has evidence of a cemetery but again no evidence of a battle having taken place. Battle Law has not been added to the database. It is uncertain whether the locations for the battle of Luncarty (which may never have taken place) have been placed at these sites because of existing names, or whether the names were derived from the association with the battle regardless of how spurious it was. Very minor events such as the 'Battle Fauld' in Aberdeenshire, the location of a dual and burial site of the loser are also excluded. For reference purposes, a MapInfo copy of the NMRS battle names extract is included in the project archive to enable these rejected items to be reviewed.

Information regarding administrative units etc is not repeated in the 'UKFOC Feature' database. This information can be retrieved through the NMRS NUMLINK or from subsidiary GIS tables maintained as part of the UKBRC.

The following are guidance notes for completion of particular fields in the UKFOC Feature database.

Field Name	Definition	Additional Information	Field Type
UKFOC Number	Unique identifier for all sites within the database linking Feature to Field of Conflict	Very rarely a Feature will be associated with more than one UKFOC record, as with the 'Crabe Stone' at Aberdeen. Where this occurs only a single number will appear in this field and any other numbers will be recorded in the 'comments' field	Mandatory
Sub Number	Subordinate number for sites with more than one possible location. E.g. 174.1; 174.2 etc	Links feature to specific UKFOC record where there are multiple locations	Mandatory
Feature Number	Unique number for all records in the database	0 indicates there is only one feature associated with a UKFOC record. 1 is only used when multiple features are present.	Mandatory
NMR NUMLINK	Unique identifier supplied by NMRS		Mandatory (where it exists)
NMR Traditional number	Indicates the map number of the OS quarter sheet (1:10000) on which a site is located		Mandatory (where it exists)
Site	Unique NMRS site record number	To be used with NMRS Traditional reference	Mandatory (where it exists)
NMRS Name	Currently the name given to a site in the NMRS. This is usually the site name or the nearest published place or topographic name on the OS 1:10,000 map sheet	Currently NMRS name usually linked to site rather than feature	
Alternative Name(s)	Alternative name(s), former names		
HER	Name of local HER		
HER Number	Individual local HER record number		
Description	Brief description of feature e.g memorial, granite	<i>Monument</i> : a structure such as obelisk commemorating the battle, or one or more of the fallen; only including	

	boulder, graves etc	earlier structures such as standing stones when they are now closely associated as a commemorative feature to the action. <i>Memorial</i> : a plaque or other non structural commemoration <i>Funerary Monument</i> <i>Named Tree</i>	
Designation	Type of designation to be specified:	Scheduled Ancient Monument Listed building Registered Park & Garden (England) / Designed Landscape (Scotland) Conservation Area	
Accuracy		<i>Not assessed as part of the current project</i>	
X	British National Grid Reference (NGR) eastings specifying site location		Mandatory
Y	British National Grid Reference (NGR) northings specifying site location		Mandatory
Comments	Free text field to include additional information to assist the user		

It may be necessary to add an Events field to record the type of intervention that produced some data, such as excavations of mass graves or metal detecting surveys producing bullet distributions.

3. 'UK Conflict related features' database

A third database, the **UK Conflict related features database** has been established for items such as monuments and graves which are not directly associated with a specific field of conflict, and so cannot be entered onto the UKFOC features database, but which have significant association with a period of pre-industrial warfare within the UK.

For example, there are several features associated with the Bothwell Bridge Rebellion which are not linked to an individual action. These are Covenanter's graves and monuments, and a memorial to Archbishop Sharp whose murder sparked the rebellion. In contrast, the Wallace Monument at Stirling has been added to the UKFOC Features database, because it is overlooking the site of his great victory, the battlefield of Stirling Bridge, and thus is directly associated with that Field of Conflict.

The further development of this third database would be a valuable adjunct to the main databases but its creation was not a requirement of the Project Design for

the current project and so only occasional entries have been made where data was retrieved incidentally that was not appropriate to include in the two main databases.

4. UK Fields of Conflict Bibliography database

The UK Fields of Conflict Bibliography is generated in Endnote software. The battle name of each battle featured in the secondary work is listed in the Notes field.

