

## **Information Further to Ministerial Answers**

**Information further to a response on the Short Debate entitled 'Old Relics, New Business: Archaeological and Historical', issued by Alun Pugh, the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, on 10 March 2006**

**To Lisa Francis:**

At the debate in Plenary on 8 March I promised to write to you about the position on a Battlefields Register for Wales.

My officials in Cadw, in partnership with our executive Sponsored Body, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, are looking into the feasibility of creating a register of nationally-important battlefield sites in Wales similar to that previously created in England which includes the sites of 42 battlefields. If the register is to serve a similar function in the planning process, the exact location of the battle has to be marked, field by field, on a large-scale map.

The Royal Commission has carried out an exercise to identify battlefield sites for depiction on general Ordnance Survey mapping and these can be viewed on the Royal Commission's Coflein website, [www.coflein.gov.uk](http://www.coflein.gov.uk) (text search-type of site-battle site). While identifying a considerable number of battles, initial indications from this exercise suggest that only a small number of sites can be identified with the degree of precision required to include them on a register. In order to obtain a more precise view, this work is now to be followed up in more detail with place-name studies and research into antiquarian sources. Once a list of possible sites has been drawn up, which should be by the summer, we will consult specialist groups and local historical and antiquarian societies. Only then will we know whether it has been possible accurately to locate sufficient nationally-important battlefield sites to compile a dedicated battlefields register for Wales.