

Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre

Location: Inverness, Scotland
Client: National Trust for Scotland
Area: 2,400 sqm (GIFA)
Value: £9.8m
Status: Completion 2007

Gareth Hoskins Architects won an international competition in 2004 to design the National Trust for Scotland's new visitor centre for Culloden Battlefield, the site of the last battle to be fought on mainland Britain.

The new visitor centre is designed for up to 250,000 visitors a year, housing interpretation of the battle along with educational/conference facilities, a 240 cover café/restaurant, a shop and staff/ancillary accommodation. The centre is defined by a wave-form roof and a long wall that passes through the building and out into the landscape. Visitors can take an interpretive journey through the exhibition culminating in a view of the site from the planted roof or enter the battlefield via a portal between a gently sloping berm, and a memorial wall for the fallen. The heavily insulated building is clad with local larch, Caithness stone and site-salvaged stone, and is heated by a biomass boiler supplied from local forests. The project was opened during Scotland's Year of Highland Culture in 2007.

The building was shortlisted or commended for a number of awards including the World Architecture Festival Award, Civic Trust Award, RIBA, RIAS Best Building in Scotland, Wood Awards, and won the Glasgow Institute of Architecture Leisure & Retail category.

1. The visitor centre blending into its surroundings
2. Scalloped roofs over visitor facilities
3. View to the South from restaurant
4. Scottish larch used for external timber cladding
5. View from entrance along the Memorial Wall

