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LIVING HISTORY IN PRESTONPANS

Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust

September 2008

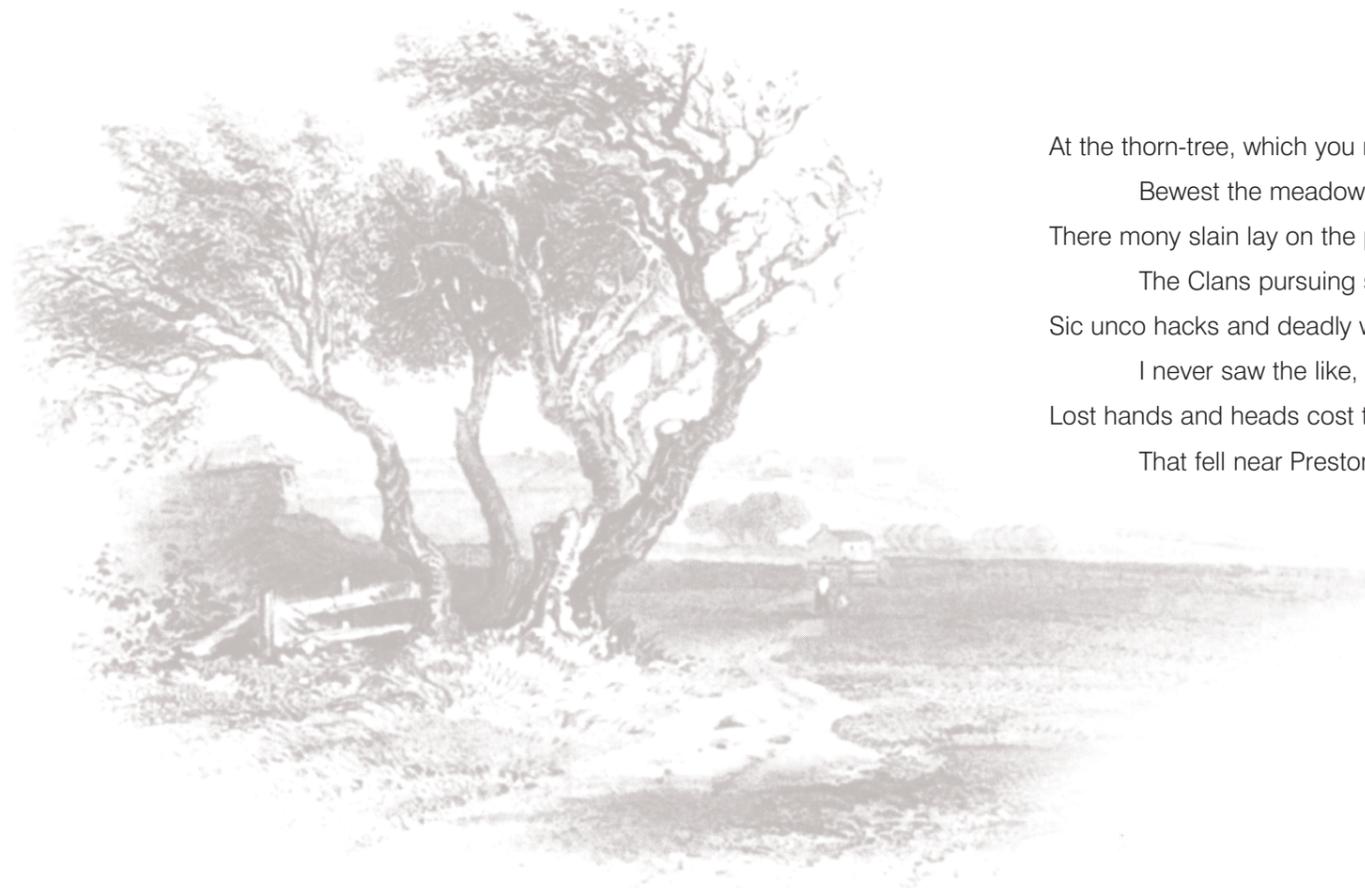


A Centre for Creativity and Reflection

The Thorn Tree

In 1817, some 70 years after the Battle of Prestonpans, Andrew Bigelow described the thorn tree as follows;

"... the venerable thorn tree aside the meadow mill... our covert being on the declivity of a rising ground which commanded a view of the scene of combat we were enabled to calculate the relative advantages and disadvantages of the positions occupied by the two armies..."

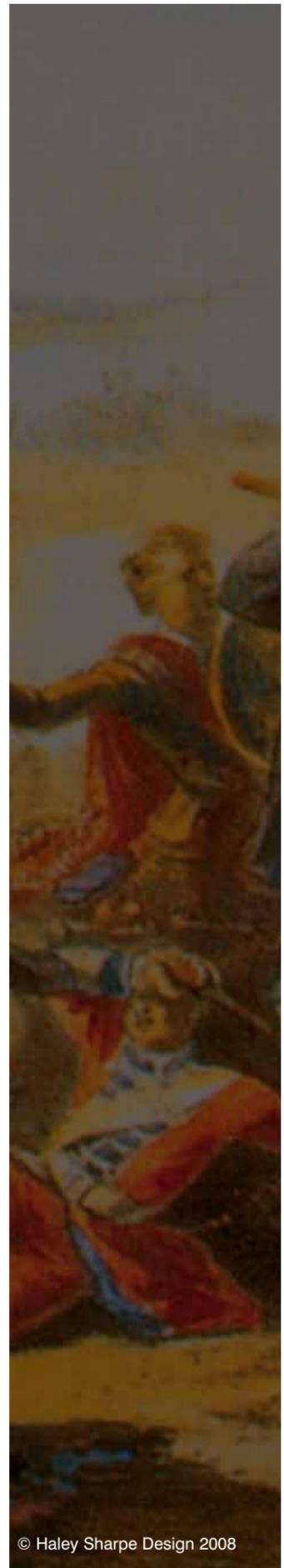


For Bigelow, the tree represented a memorial and a vantage point; a place to survey the battlefield site and to look back on past events. Our vision for the visitor experience at Prestonpans is based on such a metaphor.

The tree is used here as a metaphor for the living history of Prestonpans and one of Scotland's great battles. Not just looking back, but enabling visitors to draw inspiration for the future based on creative interpretations of the past.

At the thorn-tree, which you may see
 Bewest the meadow mill, man,
There mony slain lay on the plain,
 The Clans pursuing still, man;
Sic unco hacks and deadly whacks,
 I never saw the like, man,
Lost hands and heads cost them their deads
 That fell near Preston dyke, man.

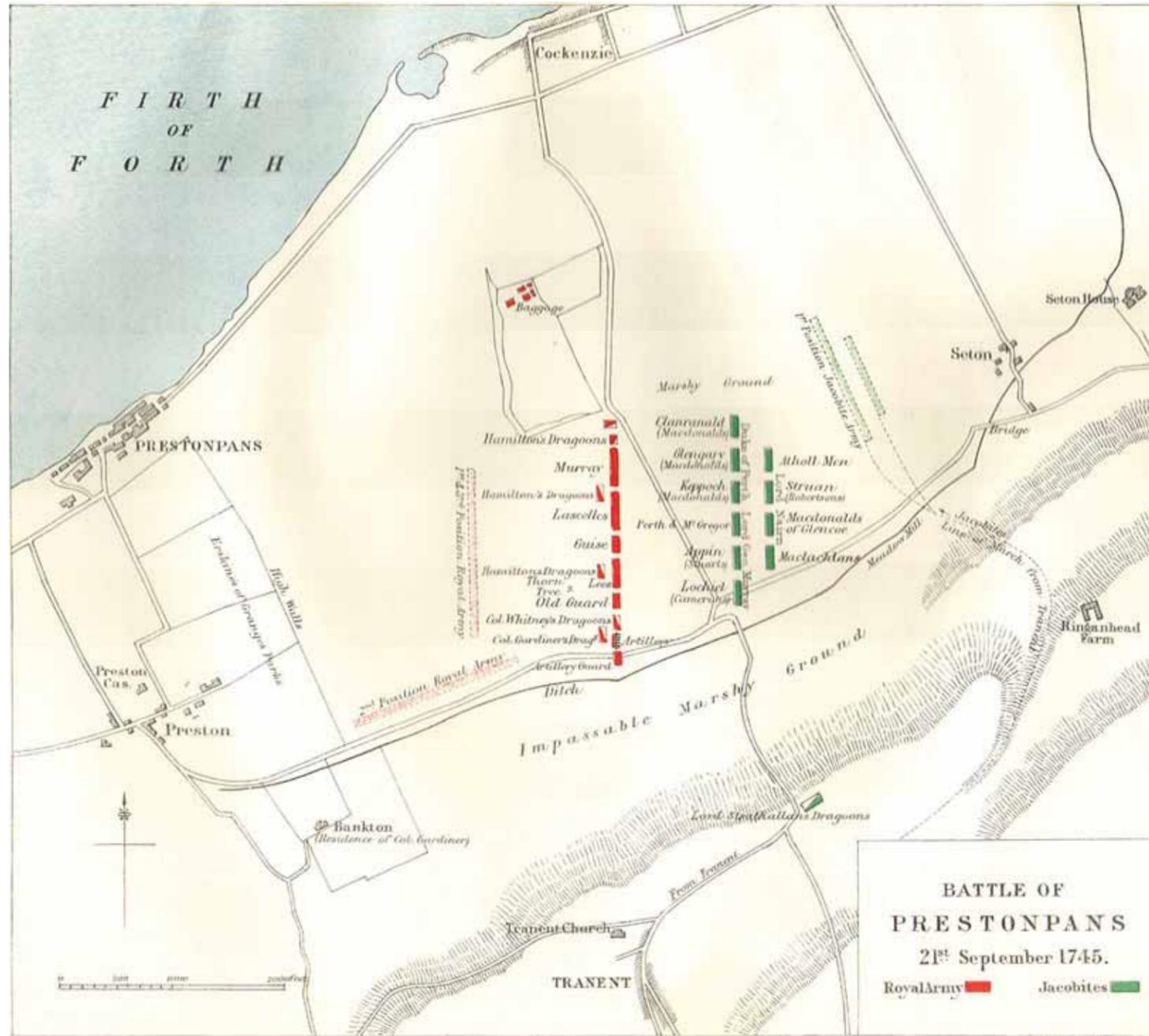
Adam Skirving 1746



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The Battle of Prestonpans, fought on 21st September 1745, was the first significant conflict in the second Jacobite rising. The victory of the Jacobite forces led by Bonnie Prince Charlie gave the impetus to the subsequent march south into England.

The Hanoverian army of some 2,300 men, under the command of Sir John Cope, had been ferried from Aberdeen to Dunbar to engage with the Jacobite army. The issue was decided within a few minutes by a fierce Highland charge at dawn.

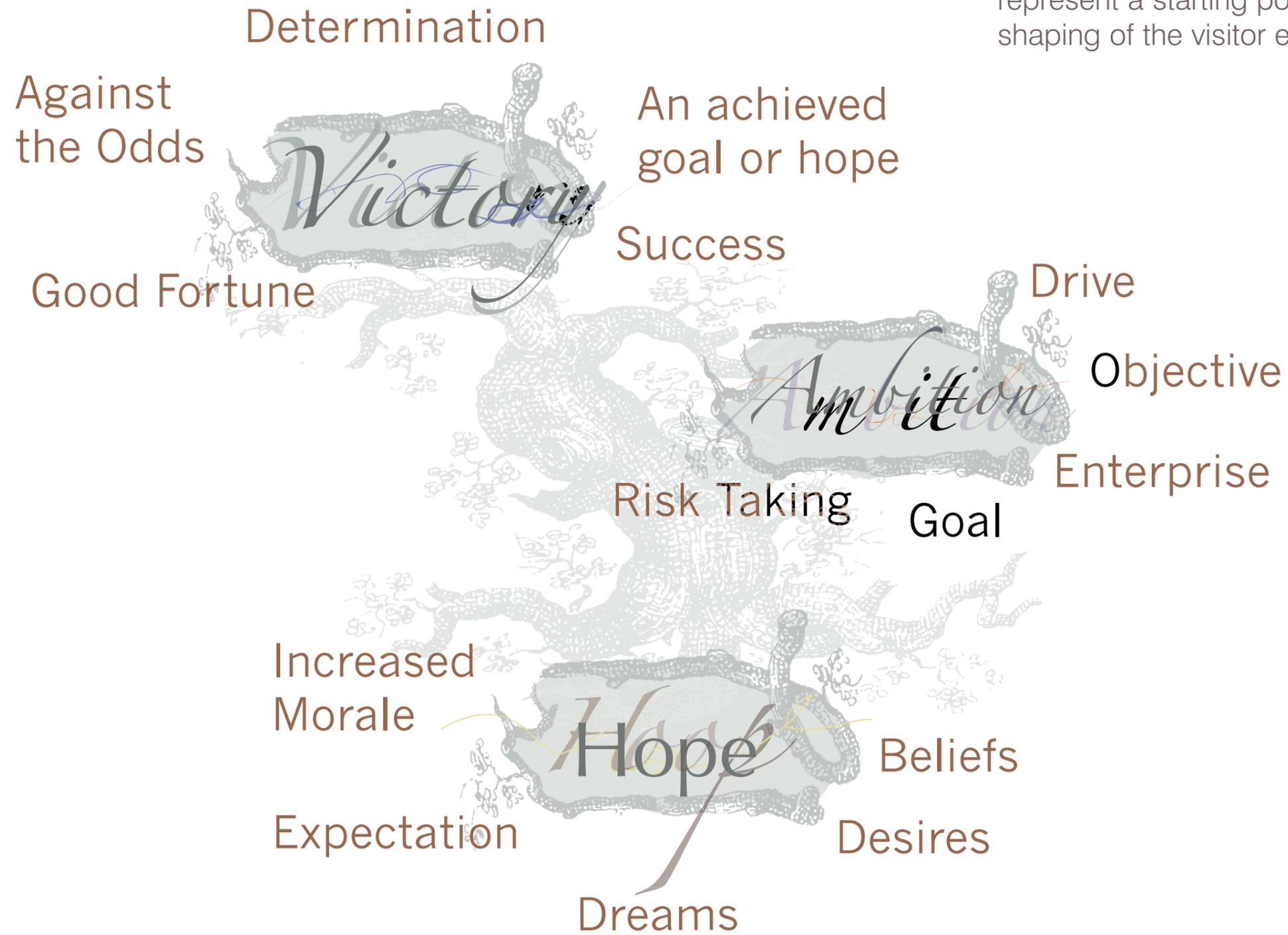
Despite its historical significance, there is virtually no interpretation or presentation of the battle for either local residents or visitors. Furthermore, the site of the battle is today under considerable threat, with no formal recognition of the battle site within existing Scottish legislation. There is extensive modern development to the north of the battlefield while on the west housing has extended over part of the rout. An extensive area of landscape has also been destroyed by mineral extraction. Roads cut across the heart of the battlefield while the A1 crosses the area of first Jacobite deployment and flank march.

The ambition of the community of Prestonpans is to safeguard the site of this nationally significant battle and develop a Centre that provides the opportunity for visitors to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the battle, its lasting legacy and importance. The determination to achieve this reflects the ambition inspired by the victory at Prestonpans more than 250 years ago.

This Visitor Experience Visioning Document presents the concepts that have been developed for a new Living History Centre at Prestonpans. The purpose of this document is to help illustrate the potential that exists at Prestonpans to create an engaging and unique facility. It is hoped this will generate interest and support for the project across the nation among the public, interested parties and potential funders.

The inspirational themes of **Victory, Hope** and **Ambition** provide us with the starting point for the shaping of a unique visitor experience.

The key words of **HOPE**, **AMBITION** and **VICTORY** represent a starting point for the shaping of the visitor experience.



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The Battle of Prestonpans was a dramatic victory for the Jacobite army. The interpretive intention however is not to concentrate on the battle as the first step that was to lead to bloody defeat at Culloden Moor and the ultimate destruction of Highland culture.

The focus of the interpretation will be on how the battle was fought and to celebrate the tremendous elation, hope and optimism for a cause that this victory created, and the inspiration that these emotions have provided and continue to provide for the nation, local community and many other people.

Specific objectives are to:

Provide a Unique Visitor Experience

- The proposed project presents a unique opportunity to create a brand new visitor experience around one of Scotland's most significant, but most threatened, battlefield sites.
- Create a dramatically different visitor experience from the traditional battlefield visit.

Provide a Personal Experience

- Visitors should be able to engage with the story of the battle on a number of different levels.
- Every visitor, irrespective of age or level of knowledge, should leave taking with them their own personal experience of the battle.
- Visitors should leave with a commitment to evaluate their own Hopes and Ambitions - and Victories sought.

Provide an Educational and an Enjoyable Experience

- While the experience provided must be educational, it must also be enjoyable and it is important that both of these aims are met through the interpretation and the visitor experience.

An Accessible Experience

- The visitor experience at Prestonpans has to provide the widest possible access, both physical and intellectual.

Use the Arts to Underpin and Strengthen the Interpretation of the Battle

- Capture, present and develop the artistic dimensions and traditions of the battle

Provide a Creative Community Resource

- Help enhance self and community esteem
- Enable visitors to draw inspiration from creative interpretations and presentations of the past and Prestonpans artistic traditions
- Create a freely accessible resource that supports, encourages and showcases local artistic expressions – including poetry, sculptures, paintings, pottery, writing, drama and music.
- Act as a vehicle for socio economic regeneration through arts and heritage
- Provide a multi-use/flexible space

Create a Sense of Place

- Connect visitors to the landscapes and topography of the battlefield today. The opportunities to engage visitors with the landscape of the battle will be maximised.

The potential target market for a Battle of Prestonpans Centre is made up of the following principal categories:

Local Community

- Local residents and day visitors from the regional catchment area.
- Education Groups from the local and catchment area.

Tourists

- Domestic holiday tourists staying in Edinburgh and the wider catchment.
- Overseas holiday tourists staying in Edinburgh and the wider catchment.
- Domestic and Overseas “transit” holiday tourists passing the site on route elsewhere.

We have considered the needs of these potential visitor groups when developing our proposals and these are reflected in the nature, scale, and specification of the proposed elements within the Centre.

Key considerations have been:

- As a general point, consumers, whether they are local residents, day trippers or tourists are becoming increasingly sophisticated, seeking new experiences and demanding better quality, content and “value for money” in what they choose to visit. The need to attract and satisfy visitors has led to ever increasing levels of sophistication in interpretation and presentation.
- To a potential tourist visitor in Edinburgh, a new Centre at Prestonpans will be just one of a wide range of potential destinations and activities that are an option for a visit. Apart from potential visitors with a special interest in the subject matter, a visit to Prestonpans will be a discretionary action, in which visitors have to make a selective choice from a range of possible alternatives. Whatever is developed has to be radical, innovative, dramatic and exciting. It has to stand out by itself as a reason to visit this part of Scotland.
- Many visitor attractions are not visited more than once, or at best infrequently, by most visitors – especially local residents (unless returning with friends and relatives). A crucial factor is the ability of the Centre to attract repeat visitors from among the local community.



Tourist

- **Quality experience**
- **Value for money**
- **Family appeal**
- **Entertaining experience**
- **Unique experience**



School /
education groups

- **Curriculum relevance**
 - **Facilities and services**
- **Programmes and activities**



Local
Community

- **Repeat visit potential**
- **Local relevance and engagement across East Lothian**
- **Community resource**

The planning for the new Centre has been done from the inside out. In other words, the necessary and optimum spaces (and their required adjacencies and linkages) have been defined first. The building then needs to be created to meet these criteria. Architecturally-driven solutions (although sometimes stunning to look at) can often compromise the functionality of spaces, or overlook certain operational needs.

The proposal is to include a paid attraction element within the Centre aimed primarily at tourist visitors to the catchment area. Though it is envisaged that most local residents will visit this experience, it is unlikely that they will pay to make frequent repeat visits - unless it is able to deliver differing presentations in at least some of its space.

Apart from pre-booked education and meeting spaces therefore, the rest of the Centre is freely accessible, designed to include a range of facilities that have the potential to motivate visitors from the local catchment area to make regular and frequent visits.

The following is a list of the proposed facility functions for the Centre building:

Visitor Services:

- a. Welcome / Orientation
- b. Male and Female WC
- c. Disabled WC
- d. Baby changing facilities
- e. Awareness of and orientation to different Centre services / elements

Battle of Prestonpans Interpretive Elements:

- a. Battle of Prestonpans Experience – paid access
- b. Viewing Elements
- c. Interpretive displays – free access
(integrated throughout the flexible spaces in the centre)
- d. Battle table gaming

Flexible Spaces:

- a. Restaurant/Function Area
- b. Interpretive displays – free access
- c. Performance space
- d. Storytelling space
- e. Workshop space – arts and crafts, writing etc

Education Services / Meeting Space:

- a. Multi-function classroom / meeting space
- b. Club Room
- c. Storage

Retail:

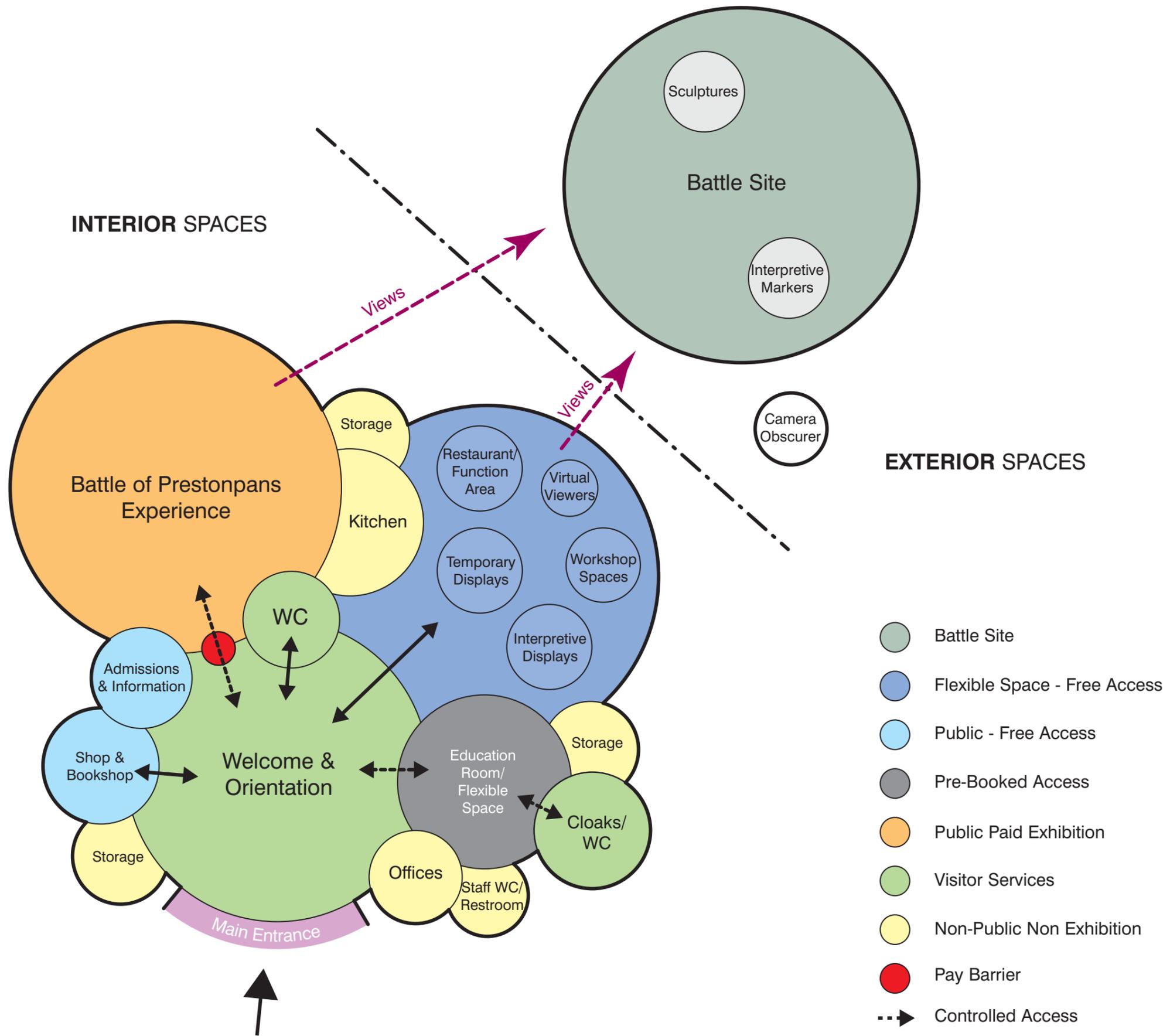
- a. Sales counter (combined with exhibition admissions)
- b. Display of branded souvenirs and other merchandise
- c. Bookshop
- d. Storage

Information:

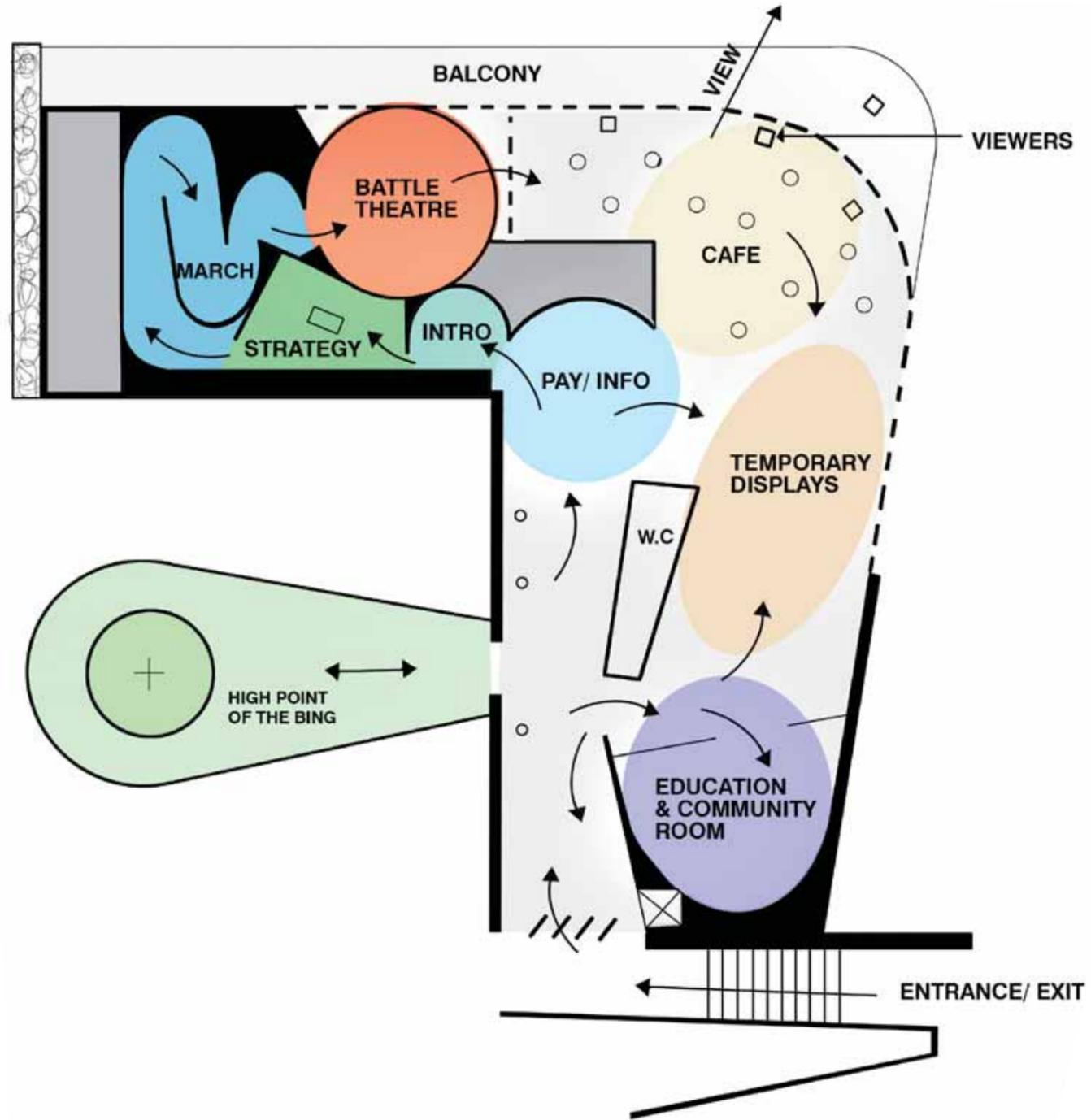
- a. Community information
- b. Visitor information

Management / Operational Facilities:

- a. Offices – Centre management
- b. Staff WC
- c. Staff rest room
- d. Kitchen/Storage
- e. Plant Room
- f. Refuse / Store



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Welcome and Orientation

The approach and entrance to any attraction is a key area and first impressions on arrival at the Centre will inevitably set the tone for the whole experience. First time visitors will arrive with some pre-conceived ideas about what the Centre will be like, either from word of mouth or printed promotional literature.

The first impression will be a lasting one and one that ensures the visit starts with a sense of curiosity, excitement and anticipation about what is to come.

This will be underpinned with a simple signage strategy that promotes the nature of the Centre with a design identity that will be used consistently within the whole Centre as well as on any educational material, publicity etc.

On arrival, visitors get a clear understanding and orientation to the full range of activities and facilities available within the Centre. This approach will permit immediate engagement with visitors and allow access to:

- Visitor Facilities
- Battle of Prestonpans Paid Experience
- Interpretive Displays – Permanent and Temporary
- Shop and Bookshop
- Workshop Spaces
- Refreshment/Function Area
- Community and Visitor Information
- Views over the battlefield

A further consideration is whether to use the new Centre as a more literal 'gateway' onto the site of the battle itself.

Within the welcome and orientation area, leaflets will be available for visitors to pick up. This will include a clear plan of the building and a map of the battle site showing access, visitor routes and the location of additional viewing opportunities etc.

The Battle of Prestonpans Experience

The major component of the Centre will be a paid-for experience. This really capitalises on the site's opportunities to tell a compelling and atmospheric story of the Battle of Prestonpans. This will be an immersive and experiential presentation providing a sense of contact with those who took part in the battle and providing visitors an insight into what it was like to be there.

The optimum physical layout required to tell the story will drive the architectural envelope that surrounds it. The intention, however, is to develop an architectural solution that enables the Centre to be a physical "window" onto the wider battlefield.

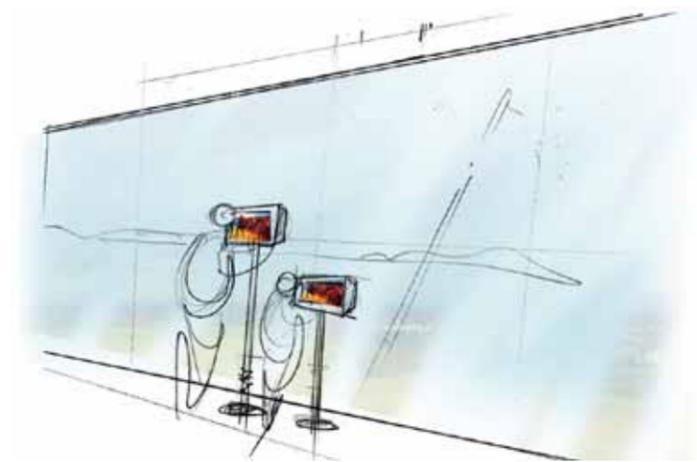
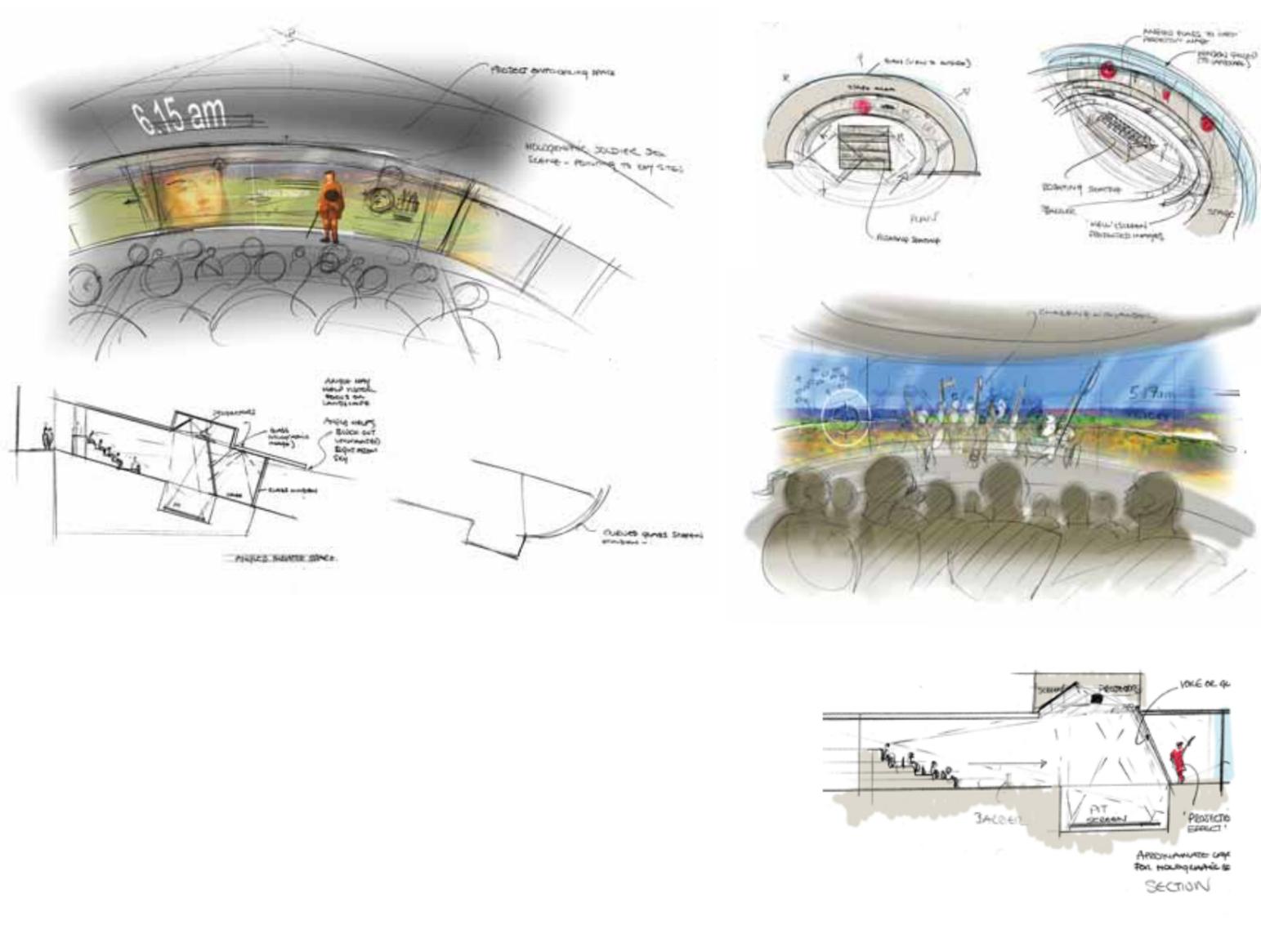
Viewing Elements

One of the proposed site's key assets is its location and the views across the site of the battle from the top of the Bing. This vista is ripe for re-painting as it would have appeared in 1745 – to put visitors back into the time of the Battle of Prestonpans as if they had time-travelled there.

Viewing opportunities will be designed into the visitor experience. With the application of new but tested technology, the modern day views of the battlefield can be overlain with computer generated depictions of the past, connecting visitors to the heart of the battlefield.

The viewing device which we are proposing is an updated version of the traditional seaside telescopes or binoculars found along seafront promenades. The head of the viewer can be swung left and right and also tilted up and down (within certain parameters). The interface with the visitor can be made in a variety of ways – it can resemble a pair of binoculars or a telescope or simply be a TV screen (which would allow a small group of people to watch at the same time).

Virtual reconstructions using 3D computer graphics have been around for a long time. The idea of mapping these reconstructions onto a live view of the site that they represent is new. Using a live view panning the view around the battlefield, and the incorporation of GPS and GIS positioning software will create a unique experience. This approach will capitalise most effectively on the position and nature of the proposed site at the Bing.



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Flexible Spaces

These spaces, integrated throughout the Centre, will provide visitors with a range of different experiences, helping to make each visit unique.

- Interpretive Displays

Freely accessible interpretive displays are proposed throughout the Centre. These will be a mixture of permanent and temporary displays intended to:

- Tell the wider story of the Battle of Prestonpans.
- Provide a reason to make a repeat visit to the Centre.
- Ensure that the visitor leaves with an appreciation of why Prestonpans is special and with a “sense of place”.
- Tell the wider story of Prestonpans and the hopes and ambitions for the future.
- Link the Centre building with the town of Prestonpans itself and its rich history.
- Interpret East Lothian’s other significant battlefields e.g. Pinkie, Dunbar and Haddington.
- Encourage community engagement.

In order to stimulate interest on the part of all visitors, the subject matter will be presented in a lively, innovative and informative manner, so that it appeals to as wide a variety of ages and interests as possible.

- Changing displays of local art and pottery etc.

These will provide visitors with access to a wide range of arts, crafts and community based exhibitions.

- Creative workshops

There would be the opportunity for visitors, particularly children, to take part in a variety of creative activities and workshops, such as poetry and creative writing as well as areas for reading, storytelling and drawing. Examples of drawings and other work generated through the activities held in the Centre would be displayed as appropriate within the displays.

- Restaurant/Function Area
- Battle Theatre

Significantly, the ‘Battle’ area of the paid experience can also be available for alternative uses.

Information

It is anticipated that information elements are integrated throughout the freely accessible areas of the Centre. The information provision (integrated within the displays) would include elements such as:

- Prestonpans and its art treasures
- Local events and activities
- Prestonpans and Three Harbours Art Festivals
- Mural Trail
- Visitor information about places to visit in East Lothian etc
- Other battle sites across Scotland
- Re-enactments and the Alan Breck Regiment.

Classroom / Flexible Space

A flexibly designed multipurpose space for pre-booked groups, meetings and dedicated space for activities such as battle modeling / re-enactments. The space would be able to be subdivided so that it can be used for smaller sessions when required (for example, children's birthday parties).

Since this space will need to serve a variety of purposes, with different equipment required for each, there should be ample adjacent storage space to keep items such as seating, temporary dividing partitions, props for activity sessions, etc.

The space would also be available for hire to other groups, particularly in the evenings, helping create a flexible community resource as well as an additional supporting revenue stream for the Centre.

It will be important for this room to be a room of character rather than a soulless square box.



The Battle of Prestonpans Experience

The Battle of Prestonpans Experience is divided into five elements:

- Introductory Displays
- Pre Battle Experience – Initial Deployments
- The Route to Success – Jacobite Advance
- Battle of Prestonpans
- Viewing Elements

Introductory Displays

In this holding area, visitors are prepared for their main interpretative experience of the Battle of Prestonpans. The emotions of pride, independence, patriotism, heroism, perseverance and triumph over adversity presented here are central to fulfilling the emotional objectives of the Centre.

This introduction will introduce the key 'personalities' involved in the battle.

The concepts of Hope, Ambition and Victory are placed firmly at the heart of the visitor experience from the outset. It is in this way that visitors are first engaged with their experience of the battle story – rather than the more traditional imagery of blood and the battle cry. Art, poetry, songs etc., and potential objects will be used in the space to support the key themes.



Pre Battle Experience – Initial Deployments (20th September)

While the focus will be on how the battle was fought, it will be important to establish for visitors the setting for the battle, who fought in it and how the opposing forces came to be in the position they found themselves on the evening of 20th September 1745. The displays will help create a sense of tension and drama.

Key Storyline:

- The Jacobites took Edinburgh with little or no fighting on 16th September. Sir John Cope, travelling by ship from Aberdeen, arrived at Dunbar too late to challenge them.
- Highland Army - clans united by a common cause, hope and ambition.
- Hanoverian Army - professional soldiers but unproven in battle.
- Marching out of Edinburgh to confront Cope and seeking high ground, the Jacobites march to the summit of Birsley Brae and see the government forces below.
- Cope had formed his army on low ground halfway between Prestonpans and Cockenzie controlling the main coastal route running east from Edinburgh.
- A landscape of dry stone walls, old mine workings and a boggy ditch in front of the Redcoat position made a Highland charge down the hill impossible.
- Rather than attempt a frontal assault on such a well deployed enemy, the Jacobites marched east along the Tranent ridge. This forced the Government forces to redeploy closer to Preston and facing south.



The Route to Success - Jacobite Advance (early morning 21st September)

Key Storyline:

- The Jacobites had a marsh between the two armies making engagement difficult if not impossible.
- Robert Anderson, a local farmer's son knew the area well and convinced Charles's Lieutenant General Lord George Murray that there was a route through the marshlands.
- To force the battle on their terms, early in the morning the 2,400 Highlanders forming the Jacobite army descended the hill and marched east round the south side of Tranent and then north over Tranent Muir and down by Riggonhead to Seton. Marching three a breast along the Riggonhead Defile they arrived at dawn to the east of Cope's army.
- Taking this gamble and seizing the moment, opened up the possibility of a charge across the Waggonway and open stubble fields towards the Redcoat army.

The Battle is Fought and Won – Highland Charge and Rout (21st September)

This is the central feature of the Battle of Prestonpans experience. Through the use of world-leading interpretative media the battle will be brought to life for visitors, virtually. This will allow visitors to see the human drama unfold and enhance the sense of place as a physical connection to a poignant dramatic historical moment.

The whole experience will last no longer than 6 - 8 minutes to echo the brevity of the battle itself and to create a sudden impact which leaves visitors deeply engaged.

Key Storyline:

- The Jacobites appeared in three columns immediately to the west of Seton at about 5.00am out of early morning fog.
- Cope deployed once more to counter them, leaving his army facing eastward.
- Government artillery pieces each had time to fire just one round against the left of the Jacobite deployment. The Hanoverian right attempted an attack on the left flank of the Jacobites but were repulsed and carried the artillerymen with them as they fled.
- Jacobites attacked the government infantry's now exposed right flank. After receiving a volley from the whole government army, the Jacobites discharged their fire, drew their broadswords and charged into the Redcoat line.
- The government battle formation was immediately broken, with just a few units rallied by Col. Whitefoord and Col. Gardiner offering any further resistance. The fiercest part of the fight was around a thorn tree just west of the Waggonway where Gardiner was cut down.
- It took the Jacobites 7 or 8 minutes to gain control of the field.
- Cope fled the battlefield and found 450 of his dragoons in the fields near Bankton House.
- Cope unable to rally them to fight the Jacobites leads them to safety up the road which now crosses the A1 called Johnny Cope's Road.

Viewing Elements

Our vision is that visitors can look across the site of the Battle of Prestonpans using a virtual viewer and peel back the layers of history.

What visitors see first of all as they look out through the viewer is the live image across the battlefield, which they can pan around. There would be two choices available to the visitor, which they activate by using buttons placed on either side of the viewer's head. They can activate the 'exploratory' mode or the 'experience' mode.



In the exploratory mode, the visitor begins to see that certain areas or features are lighting up. The visitor can now select any one of these 'hotspots'. On doing so, they enter a virtual world. We zoom in to see each highlighted areas which can now be explored in more depth.

When the experiential mode is activated, the modern views across the site gradually fade, and we are plunged into an immersive presentation of the battle in which visitors can see dramatic events played out on the spot where they happened. The effect is like opening a window in time onto the scene before your eyes creating a truly memorable experience for visitors.



Interpretive Displays - Free Access

Themes that could be covered include:

Battle of Prestonpans

Having provided visitors with an experience which allows them to become immersed in the drama of the battle itself, these supporting displays will deal with the wider story in more detail, explore why the battle was fought and help dispel some of the commonly held myths about the battle and those who took part. This is the opportunity to explore why the battle was fought rather than how it was fought.

- Why was the battle fought and who fought it?
 - The end of the Stuart monarchy
 - Claims of the Old and Young Pretenders to the Scottish and English thrones
 - Jacobite rising in 1745 – Bonnie Prince Charlie and the road to Prestonpans
 - Highland army – clans – united by a common cause.
 - Hanoverian army under the command of Sir John Cope
- Why was victory at Prestonpans so important in 1745?
 - Victory gave great momentum and ambition to the Jacobite cause
 - Filled the Scottish nation with hope and belief that the Jacobites could be triumphant
- Why Prestonpans?
 - East Lothian and the eastern corridor
 - Other battle sites
- Heroes and Villains
 - Sir John Cope
 - Colonel Gardiner
- The Battle Site
 - Development and appearance today.
- The Battle in Art, Literature and Legend



Battle Re-enactment and Modelling

- Alan Breck Prestonpan's Volunteer Regiment
- Battle boards and gaming

Origins of Prestonpan's

- Myth and Legend - originally founded in 11th century by a pirate named Althamer who was shipwrecked on the coast
- Monks of Newbattle - gave settlement own name of Prieststown or Prieston
- Salt panning carried out by the monks along the sea shore led to the name of the town developing into Prestonpan's.

Industrial Heritage of Prestonpan's

Apart from coal mining, the town of Prestonpan's has a long established history of industrial activity.

- Brickworks
- Pottery
- Glass making
- Salt panning
- Soap
- Chemicals.

Prestonpan's Today – Hope and Ambition

- Socio economic regeneration
- History told through the arts
- Community Spirit
- The Prestoungrange Gothenburg
- The town's future in the 21st century





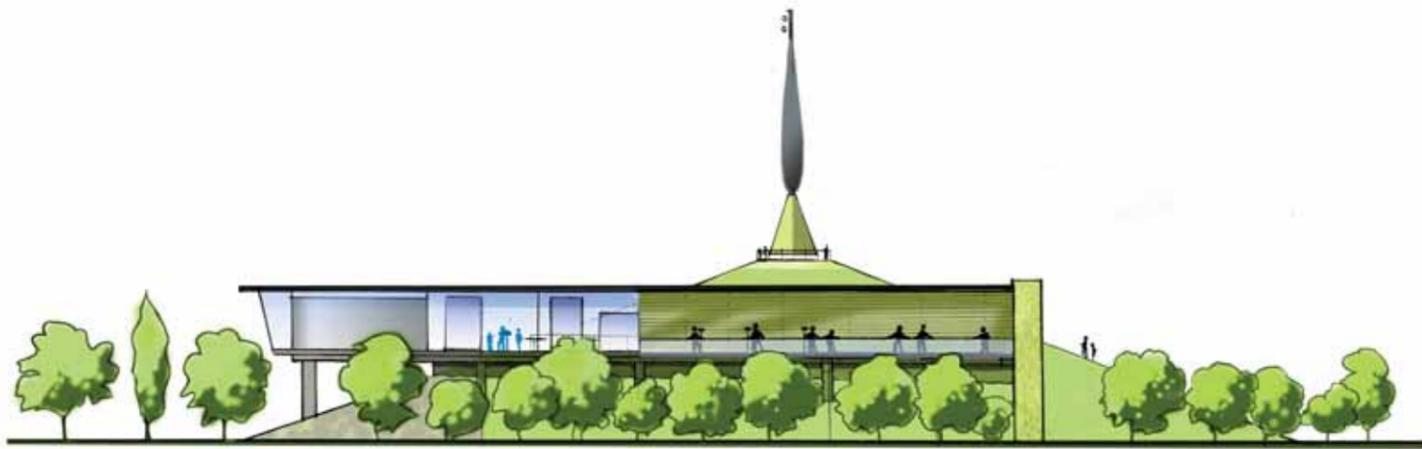
The Bing, created from the processes of a former coal washing plant north of the site of the battle, offers tremendous design opportunities for the development of a unique Centre.

The proposal is to site the Living History Centre high on the Bing to make best use of the views across the battle site afforded by this unusual and memorable man made topographical structure.

The artists impression presented overleaf represents HSD's initial conceptual development and design intent for the Battle of Prestonpans Living History Centre building.

We propose an architectural solution that follows the principles shown in this sketch. These are to:

- Create a building that acts as a physical "window" onto the wider battlefield
- Create a building of significant volume that requires minimal excavation of the existing structure
- Create a structure that creates drama and visual impact for the visitor on arrival.
- Create a signature building that does not dominate its immediate surroundings to the detriment of the surrounding landscape and existing nearby sporting facilities.
- Create a building that maximises the potential views over the battle site (and the interpretive possibilities therein) and surrounding panorama.
- Create a building that has access to the highpoint of the Bing and incorporates an iconic, easily recognisable landmark for those travelling on the nearby A1 and on East Coast Mainline trains to Edinburgh.
- Create a physical link to the battlefield with the iconic 'wall'.



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Visitor Experience

The Battle of Prestonpans Living History Centre consists of two main elements:

- A paid attraction which interprets and brings to life the battle of 1745
- A free to use space that incorporates facilities designed to be used by both tourists on a one off visit and the local population on an ongoing and regular basis.

Approach and Entrance

From the approach road, paths, Waggonway and car park the visitor is met by the imposing and unusual structure of the Bing with the Living History Centre building high up and accessed via steps, lift or by an ambling pathway cut into the side of the grassy bank on the Bing's south side

On entering the tall, single storey building, the visitor is stood within a large, open, rectilinear entrance foyer area lit by both exhibition lighting and daylight from above. Within this area the toilet and cloak facilities, the free to use spaces to the right, and the paid experience to the left are clearly signposted and easily accessible.

Local, contemporary art, which draws inspiration from the battle, and the themes of Hope, Victory and Ambition are positioned prominently within this space.

The visitors eye is drawn to the end of the foyer area, which forms the main hub of the Centre and at which point is positioned a large information and pay desk. From here, the visitor can chose to enter the paid experience or take advantage of the café, retail, art and community focussed facilities free of charge.

*When Charlie looked the letter upon
He drew his sword the scabbard from:
'Come, follow me, my merry merry men,
And we'll meet Johnnie Cope i' the morning*



*"Gentlemen you are about to fight with a parcel of rabble,
a small number of highlanders, a parcel of Brutes.
You can expect no booty from such a poor, despicable pack.
But I have authority to declare that you shall have
eight full hours of plunder and pillage of Edinburgh,
Leith, and suburbs, at your discretion, with impunity"*

Paid Experience

Introductory Displays

Immediately after the pay-point, is the introduction to the Battle of Prestonpans. Here, small groups of visitors are held until the timed show and spaces beyond are ready to receive them. Reproduction artwork or preferably loaned paintings etc., which depict the key protagonists, adorn the walls and tall structures that sit within the open space.

Mood setting quotes are cut into the wall surfaces at a large scale. These headline statements will help set the historical tone for the battle beyond.

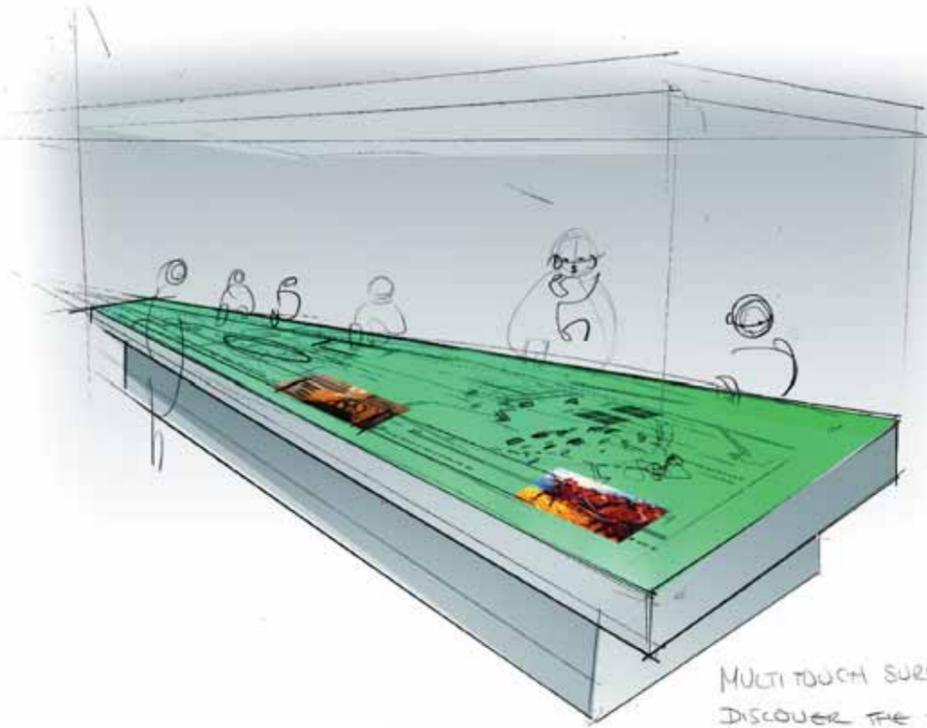
The floor area in the centre of the room holds carved inscriptions and quotes that express the notions of Hope, Victory and Ambition.

Archaeological artefacts and recreations from the period can be displayed in cases here, to ground the experience at a moment in time.

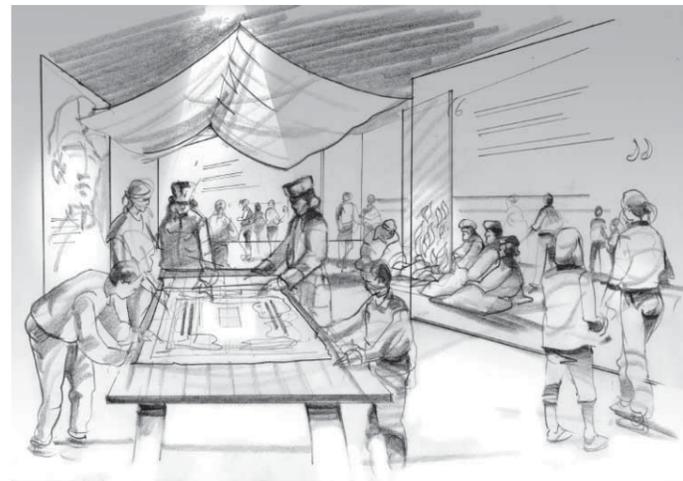
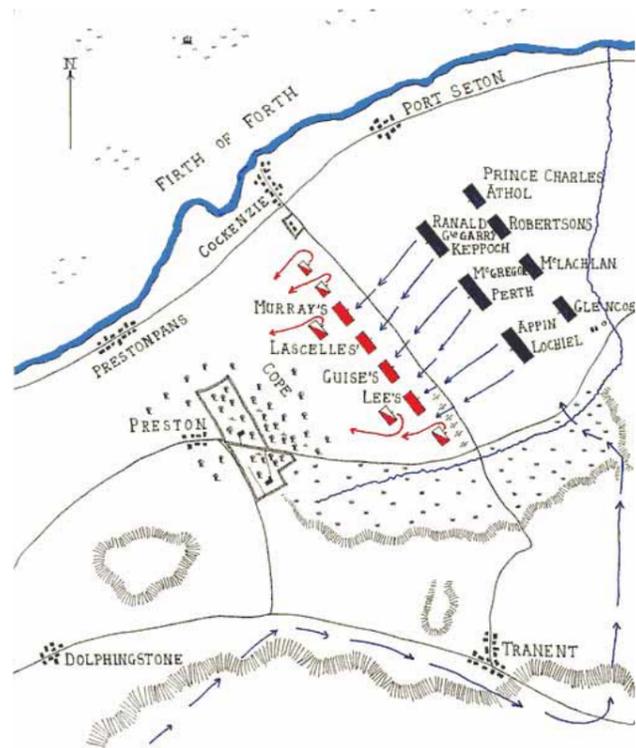
The Prestonpans Tapestry can find its place here too.







MULTI TOUCH SURFACE TECHNOLOGY
DISCOVER THE BATTLE IN DETAIL



Pre-Battle Experience – Initial Deployments

After progressing from the introductory area, visitors are led into a space that depicts the evening preceding the battle.

With an understanding of who was on the opposing sides, the initial deployments and the strategic decisions that led to ultimate victory for the Jacobites will be outlined - most notably the Jacobite advance along the Riggonhead Defile under cover of darkness to launch a Highland charge across open fields at dawn.

This space has reconstructed, thematic displays arranged around a large digital table positioned centrally within the room. This digital table is the key interpretive device. Visitors can position themselves around the table and see, through projected topographical maps, diagrams and imagery the key decisions taken by each side in the hours before the battle. The battle table is set within an artistically reconstructed camp setting and landscape, with the two armies positioned on opposite sides of the space.

The pre battle narrative is explained through 'talking heads' and quotes, projected onto wall and display surfaces and supported by actors and mannequins in period costume. The narration in this space is delivered from multiple perspectives and in multiple locations around the space. It will include not only the key strategists and the local farmer's son who guided the Jacobite army through the marshland, but also the foot-soldiers and clansmen who give an insight into the general mood and feeling within each opposing army.



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The Route to Success

This important aspect of the interpretation is part of the battle experiences unique selling point. At this stage in the interpretive storyline, the visitor becomes part of Charles Stuarts' army and recreates the night march through the marshland. Walking through a narrow corridor space with voiles holding projected scenery along the 'walls'. This pathway is wide enough to allow visitors to walk 3 abreast as the Jacobite army did, with soft flooring underfoot.

Along the corridor are positioned three Jacobite soldiers walking towards the battle which visitors approach and pass from behind. Mist hangs in the air and whispered voices of the marching soldiers are overheard along the journey. Ambient sound of night creatures and the distant voices of government soldiers further enhance the experience.

This night march re-enactment puts the visitor at the heart of the action and reinforces the key strategy which led to victory.



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The Battle

After the night march the visitor arrives at a moonlit 'clearing' which represents the muster point for the Jacobite forces immediately prior to the battle. Spotlighting on the floor defines for visitors where to position themselves.

As the lighting levels increase in the space to signify the dawning of first light, the visitor becomes aware that they are in a large circular space, with floor to ceiling screens around the perimeter.

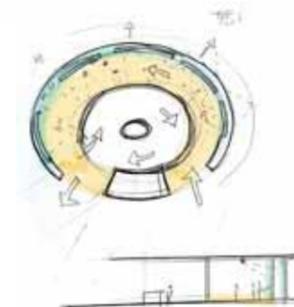
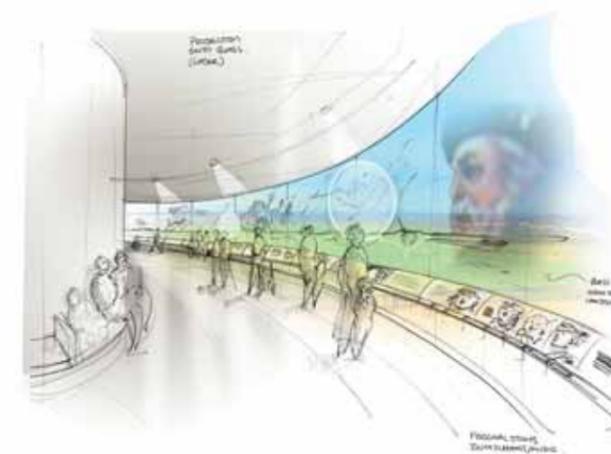
The re-enactment of the battle commences, beginning with a moment of complete stillness. At this point, the visitor sees the government forces in the distance as they stand shoulder to shoulder with the Jacobite army. The imagery fades to black and the visitor sees that the perspective has changed and they now stand shoulder to shoulder with the army led by Sir John Cope. The walls suddenly explode into life as the highland forces charge towards the visitor, the battle has begun....



The Battle of Prestonpans was over swiftly and the battle sequence will be choreographed to portray the intensity of the battle without the use of gruesome, inappropriate, blood-soaked imagery. The battle will be represented, as with the pre-battle strategy from multiple perspectives. Visitors will see individuals engaged in combat and the use of sound against a black screen will be key interpretative devices. First hand accounts of the battle (talking heads) will appear on the screens throughout the battle giving the visitor a personal perspective of events.

The finale will show the battle scene from a high level, birds' eye perspective, giving an overview of the immediate post conflict scene. Statistics from the battle will be presented around the perimeter of the space to complete the interpretation, giving headline statements about the losses sustained by both sides, and the fate of the major players.

The house lights illuminate and visitors are able to move on to the open, community spaces beyond, where a panoramic window looks out over the landscape as it is today.





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Free Access Display and Facilities

As important to the success of the Centre as the battle interpretation are the free to access public / community spaces that make up around half the newly created building.

The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust are rightly determined to create a sustainable and worthwhile experience and centre for the people of Prestonpans as well as visitors. The intention is to create spaces that both celebrate the battle and provide facilities that allow the local people to come together and spend quality leisure time.

To this end, the naturally lit and contemporary styled free to use spaces will include community and education rooms, with designed-in flexibility to maximise potential use, changeable display panels and structures that can be adapted to allow local artists to display their talents to a wider tourist audience and café, restaurant and retail facilities.

This space will incorporate informal performance spaces that can be accessed by education and tourist groups alike. The interior architecture will be arranged to allow for the battle theatre to be re-purposed as a larger, more formal performance space for special events throughout the year. This offers most considerable potential for repeat visiting by the local community which is of course vital.

Interpretation of the battle will be also be presented in this area, on wall spaces and through scale models.

The core battle interpretive tools within this area will be a large glazed façade on the building elevation that overlooks the battle site to the north which will hold Virtual Viewers. A balcony will run the length of the north façade of the building to allow wider views of the surrounding area from outside.

Within this community space will be interpretive displays which chart the history of Prestonpans as a community, its important industrial heritage and role in the salt and pottery industries. Not a traditional heritage centre, this space will present the town as a place with an important heritage and history that extends before and beyond 1745.

Outside the main building and at the high point of the Bing will be a Camera Obscura device that takes 360 degree panoramic views of the surrounding area and projects them onto a table surface below. This real time optical device will protrude upwards as a highly visible symbol of the new facility, be free to access for those who use the facilities and those just walking on the Bing. Inscriptions will be carved into the stone immediately around the base.



The concept and vision presented in this document should not be seen as a final proposal - it is the next step on the path to fulfilling the Dream of a new Living History Centre at Prestonpans.

The concept that we have presented is ambitious (as it needs to be) but it is not unrealistic or founded on false hopes and expectations. It is one that we believe is achievable within the magnitude of potential costs identified for the project and the economic feasibility studies undertaken.

From our experience elsewhere we would recommend that a budget of £2.5 million be included for interpretive fit out at current prices. Cost inflation on this figure can be expected to be in the order of 5% per annum.

We hope that the vision we have presented for a unique and innovative national attraction that can appeal to both visitors and the local community will help generate widespread interest and support for the project.

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