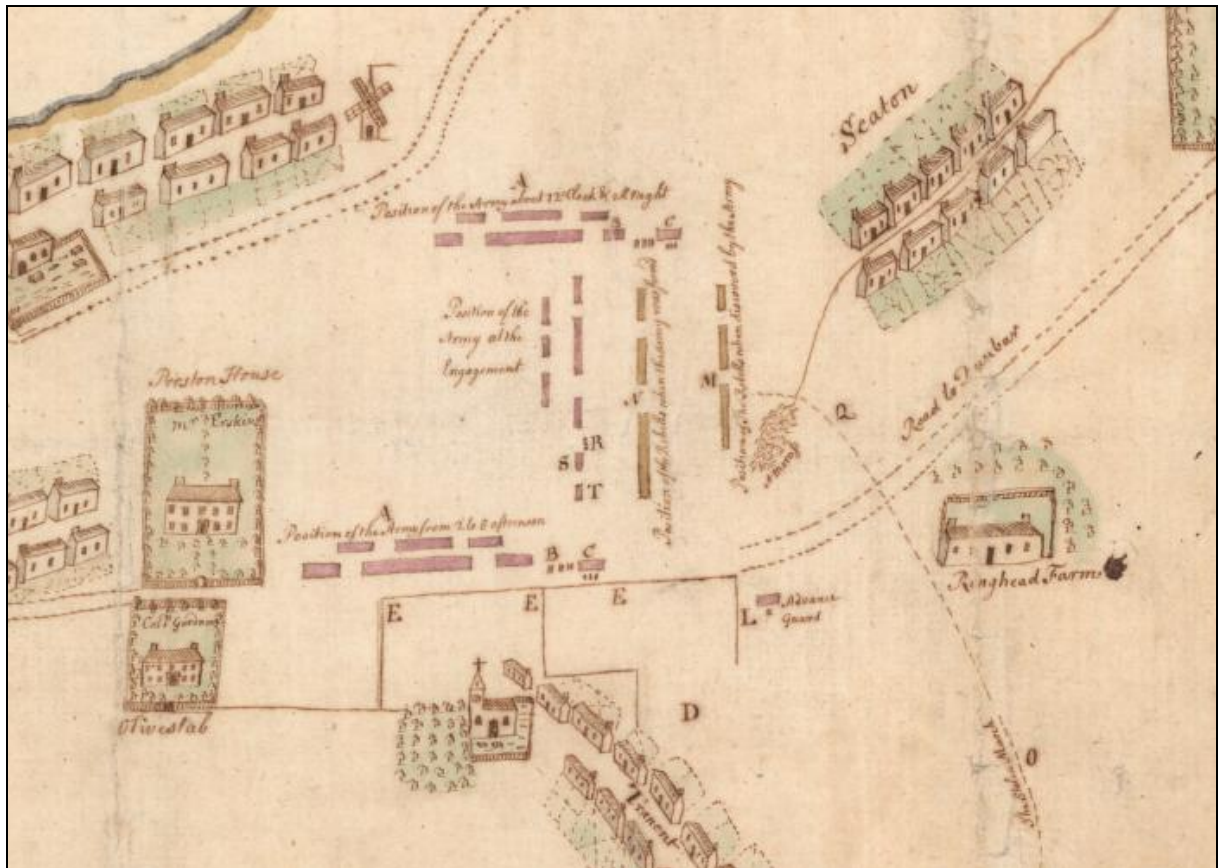


# PRESTONPANS BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

## PROJECT DESIGN



GUARD 12012

For  
The Battle of Prestonpans Battlefield Trust

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*Cover Plate:*

*Image: Map of Battle from 1745.*

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PRESTONPANS BATTLEFIELD  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

PROJECT DESIGN

PROJECT 12012

by

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GUARD

## 1.0 Non Technical Summary

This design sets out a scheme to effect the archaeological investigation of the site of the battle of Prestonpans fought between government and Jacobite forces on 21 September 1745. The project will involve a multi-faceted programme of field survey, encompassing metal detecting and geophysical survey possibly followed by trial excavation of anomalies relevant to the aims and objectives of the project. This Heritage Lottery assisted project will include active participation on the part of the local community, including school groups and local metal detectorists.

## 2.0 Introduction

The battle of Prestonpans was the first battle of the last Jacobite rising of 1745. Fought on 21 September 1745 it was a resounding Jacobite victory and was to stand in stark contrast with the final defeat of the Stuart cause at Culloden on 16 April 1746. Unlike Culloden the battlefield at Prestonpans has suffered through urbanisation, being in any case originally set within an industrialised landscape, a factor which gives it added historical interest.

The Prestonpans Battlefield Archaeological Project is a result of collaboration between the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at the University of Glasgow and the Battle of Prestonpans Battlefield Trust. The results of the project will be used to inform a forthcoming management plan coordinated by the Trust in working toward the establishment of a heritage centre focussing on this and perhaps other battlefields in East Lothian. In addition to providing much needed information on the battle and the landscape in which it was fought and important aim of the project is to involve members of the local community in the various components of the fieldwork, indeed in some circumstances to the extent of investigating their own back gardens for traces of the battle.

The project represents the first attempt to study the battle of Prestonpans using the same archaeological techniques which have provided much information on other battle sites such as Culloden and Killiecrankie. It is hoped that a project methodology which integrates, documentary research, topographic survey, metal detector survey, geophysics and possibly excavation will not only provide information on the extent to which sites associated with the battle survive within the patchwork of development and landscape change but also further our knowledge of the events of the battle, which although relatively well recorded in contemporary maps and eye witness accounts may yet hold some surprises for the military historian. The project is also interested in the nature of the social landscape in which the battle was fought and will integrate the study of sites related to the settlement and industry of the time.

## 3.0 Site Location and Description

The battlefield of Prestonpans is located on the eastern fringes of the town of Prestonpans, on the coastal plain which to the south gives way to a ridge of high ground upon which the neighbouring town of Tranent is located. In 1746 Prestonpans was a small village located to the west of Preston House and its associated gardens. The core of this settlement can still be seen today in the shape of the older houses which fringe Preston Road. The oldest surviving structure in the town is Preston Tower, first constructed by the Hamiltons in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was no stranger to conflict, having been put to the torch in 1544 by the earl of Hereford and 1650 by Oliver Cromwell. The nearby Mercat Cross dates from the 1617 and is widely regarded as the finest example of its type still to occupy its original location. The town's earliest industry was salt production, hence the 'pans' place name. However, pottery production, brewing and coal extraction were also to play a part in the town's post medieval development.

The impact of the coal industry is very apparent within the modern landscape, with the coal fired power station at Cockenzie dominating the skyline. Coal pits and open cast mining have played a role and a large open cast mine was located to the immediate east of the village, with the site now reinstated to something akin to its original appearance, though obviously any evidence of the pre-industrial landscape, which included the site of Seton Castle, has been lost. To the south of the power station a spoil heap of coal washings has been sculpted into something akin to a pyramid, initially intended for use as a ski slope (it is marked as such on the Ordnance Survey map). More recently however it has been used as a viewing platform for the battlefield, with a series of display panels positioned on the summit. To the west of the pyramid is Bankton House, the home Colonel Gardner who was killed in the battle and who is memorialised by the monument at the bottom of the garden. The house was converted into flats some years ago but still retains more of its original character than Preston House which was located immediately

to the north, the last vestiges of which were removed in the later part of the twentieth century when the local swimming pool and community centre were built on the site.

## 4.0 Historical Background

The last Jacobite rising, popularly known as ‘the ‘45’, was initially scheduled to take place in 1744, when it was to coincide with a French led invasion of Britain. This operation was, however, aborted after storms wrecked part of the fleet almost before it could leave port. Taking the matter in his own hands, Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender to his detractors and Bonnie Prince Charlie to his supporters, landed in Scotland on the 25 July 1745, and initiated a Jacobite rising that quickly grew to pose a major threat to the Hanoverian regime. The rising benefited from the demands made on the British army in its continental war against France as part of the War of the Austrian Succession. Initially, it was the Highland clans which gathered under the Jacobite colours and this army marched south to occupy Edinburgh, its numbers growing all the while. The government army in Scotland, under Sir John Cope, comprised around 3,000 men and was tasked with nipping the insurrection in the bud. Having failed to intercept the highly mobile Jacobites in their march south, Cope transported his troops south by sea from Aberdeen to Dunbar. Edinburgh fell to the Jacobites, without any fighting, and they then marched eastward along the coast to confront Cope.

Cope’s army landed at Dunbar on 17 and 18 September and marched on 19 September to camp west of Haddington. On 20 September, on receiving news of the Jacobite army approaching from the west, it marched to counter them, deploying in a cornfield to the west of Seton. This gave Cope control over the main coastal route running east from Edinburgh. Rather than attempt a frontal assault on such a well deployed enemy, the Jacobites marched around to the south. They thus advanced to deploy on a hill to the west of Tranent. This forced the government army to redeploy, closer to Preston and facing south. However, on reaching their position on the high ground the Jacobites found that a marsh (Tranent meadow) lay between the two armies, and so the initial plan to launch a frontal assault from this position was abandoned. In the meantime, a Jacobite detachment marched to the north and deployed in Tranent church yard, closer to the government position. Cope responded with his artillery which fired several roundshot at them.

To force the battle on their terms, the Jacobites descended the hill early on the morning of 21 September and marched east and then north, negotiating the marsh. They appeared in three columns immediately to the west of Seton at about 5 am and deployed in two lines. Cope had some prior warning of this move from his scouts and so deployed once more to counter them, bringing his army round to face eastward. But in the early morning mist the Jacobites deployed too far to the north and left a wide gap in their frontage which resulted in both armies outflanking the left of the other.

An attack by government cavalry on the right was repulsed and in their flight they carried with them the artillerymen who had managed to fire just one round at the charging Jacobites before abandoning their pieces. At this, significant numbers of the largely untested government troops on both flanks broke and fled, even before they came to hand-to-hand fighting, and in so doing they disordered some of their reserves. Though some of the Jacobite forces pursued the fleeing troops the majority seem to have turned on the government infantry’s now exposed right flank. The charging Jacobites received a volley from the government troops, but this did little to break their momentum and after firing their own muskets, which they then threw down, they ran forward with drawn swords. What remained of the government battle formation was immediately broken, with just a few units offering any further resistance. Within no more than ten minutes the Jacobites were in control of the field and had captured both the baggage and artillery. While Cope managed to retreat with some of his infantry, by a lane beside Bankton House, large numbers of his army were captured. Cope reached Berwick with only about 450 troops.

## 5.0 Archaeological Potential

Although parts of the battlefield have been lost to urban development, both in the town of Prestonpans and the village of Tranent to the south, and also to coal extraction, there are areas which retain good archaeological potential.

The core of the battlefield, although surrounded by former open cast coal extraction sites to the north and east and settlement to the west has reasonable archaeological potential as it appears in part to have survived relatively unscathed, though the still open location is traversed by roads and in the nineteenth century accommodated pit heads. The battle was fought within an industrialized landscape, with a

number of coal pits supported by a wagon way which ran down the hill from the south to the harbour at Cockenzie. The Jacobites charged across this feature in the battle and its route can still be traced across the landscape today.

This area corresponds to the traditional site of burials and elements of these may also exist on the site, a portion of which enjoys protection as a scheduled ancient monument due to the presence of prehistoric crop marks. North-west of this area, in what was previously was the farm holding of Thorntree Mains (NT 401 745), there are references in local histories and folklore relating to burials of those killed during the battle. This includes the ‘Thorntree’, which existed until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and said to mark the location where Col Gardiner was severely wounded during the battle. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century human remains were uncovered by workmen during drainage works in the area. According to M’Neill, “the clothes covering the remains were so well preserved they could distinguish Royalist from rebel” (1883, 130). There may be an interesting link between these burials and the placename ‘Johnnie Cope’s Hole’ which is marked on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map.

The recently modified Bankton House and its grounds are still to be seen to the west of the battle site, the area to the east, over which part of the rout may have taken place, is today occupied by football pitches. These playing fields may still have the potential to retain battle archaeology beneath them, though this survival depends on the extent of the landscaping operations necessitated in the creation of the pitches. To the SW and SE, there are still areas of open farmland across which troops may have moved during the lead up to and following the battle.

Tranent churchyard is still extant and retains some of its eighteenth century character, despite the church being demolished and rebuilt in the early nineteenth century. The area to the north of the churchyard remains as farmland and has the potential to accommodate battle archaeology, particularly in relation to the bombardment of the churchyard and the Jacobites within by government artillery on the day before the battle.

### 5.1 *Map Evidence*

Prestonpans is fortunate to have a number of highly detailed maps that show the location of the battle, and these are supported by some equally informative eyewitness accounts. Despite what at first sight may appear to be extensive modern development in the area, some of the contemporary features, such as Bankton House, then known as Olive Stab, and the churchyard at Tranent are still to be seen, while the line of the wagonway can still be traced.

The Jacobite line was positioned roughly N-S to the west of Seton, where the marshy ground was negotiated. A number of the secondary accounts mention the wagonway, to the west of which the government line was formed in the face of the Jacobite attack. Although this may be the case, the feature is not apparently mentioned in any of the eyewitness accounts, though it does appear on at least one of the contemporary battle maps. The wagonway, which was first built in 1722, can be traced on Roy’s map from the 1750s, which shows it running from the pit head at Coalhill to the SW of Tranent and running down to the north to the harbour at Cockenzie. The route can still be traced on the ground today, at least in places. The core of the battlefield is located to the north of the modern railway on open ground to the east of modern Prestonpans and south of Cockenzie and Port Seton, where it has up until now managed to avoid being subsumed beneath settlements which have grown so much since 1745.

A very useful nineteenth century map, based on the 1st Ed OS map, shows the battle lines marked in relation to the wagon way, though the government line may follow it a little too closely rather than being some distance further to the west as was probably the case. This map shows a farm called Thorntree Mains behind the government centre, which is named after the famous Hawthorn tree under which Gardiner was said to have been killed. This farm no longer exists as it was buried beneath coal workings at some point in the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Interestingly, there is a pit marked ‘Johnnie Cope’s Hole’ to the north of this farm and another marked ‘Thorntree colliery’ to the south. The thorn tree, marked on the first edition OS map (NT 3399 6742), was still standing in the 1899, though by that time was reinforced with iron rods and bands (Hannah 2003). By the 1920s, stumps could still be seen but the tree itself was dead. There are reports of burials in ‘Thorntree Field’ and the memorial cairn raised in 1932 is said to be 400 yards and 35 degrees west of north from where the tree originally stood, which would again place it in the area of coal workings to the north and possibly in an area to the south of this area of disturbance in still open land.



Graves relating to the battle are recorded in the area of the Thorntree Field, apparently a short distance behind the government army initial deployment, discovered at the end of the eighteenth century, when this field was being drained. The reports refer to a number of bodies with well-preserved clothing, a little NE of the farm steading at Thorntree Mains (NMRS). The source of the human remains reported to have been buried next to the cairn monument in 1950 is uncertain.

Bankton House, although now converted to flats, is still standing to the SW of the battlefield with the nineteenth century memorial to Gardiner in the grounds to the north of the house. Johnnie Cope's Road runs to the south along the west side of the garden. Preston House sat to the north of Bankton House within its own grounds, which according to one of the 1745 maps (Seaton's) were incredibly ornate. In 1789, the house opened as Schaw's Hospital, a school for boys (Hopkins 2004, 55). In 1832, the school moved to new premises just to the north of the old house and the old hospital is marked as a long, two winged building on the 1st Ed OS map. The house was eventually demolished, possibly as late as the 1970s, and the ground is now occupied by Prestonpans Community Centre.

The coal wagonway ran across the battlefield in 1745, but was first constructed in 1722 by the York Building Company and was still in use in the twentieth century. Today, it can still in part be traced as a trackway running through fields to the north of the main railway line and to the west of Tranent.

## 5.2 *Previous Archaeological Work*

A series of developer –led archaeological investigations, including metal detector survey, have been carried out across the area of what is regarded to be the core area of the battlefield between Prestonpans and Cockenzie Power Station (NT 404 744). Other sites which play a key role in understanding the battlefield landscape, including the grounds of Preston House, Bankton House and the Cockenzie Waggonway, have also been investigated by partial excavation through watching briefs or survey ahead of development.

### 5.2.1 *Core Area of Battlefield*

In 2007 CFA carried out a desk based assessment and metal detector survey ahead of a 'Community Woodland' plantation. The area metal detected (NT 3989 7482) had been previously identified, through research carried out in preparation for a Gazetteer of Scottish battlefields, as the core area of the battlefield. Although some artefacts dating to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century were recovered from the survey, they were not identified as being related to the battle itself (Hill and Anderson 2007, 76). An evaluation of this material may be necessary to establish whether this assemblage does contain signature artefacts of conflict.

### 5.2.2 *Preston House and Bankton House*

With much of Preston House and its grounds swallowed up by the building of Schaw's Hospital in the 1830s, only remnants of Preston House (NT 3923 7405) survived by the 1920s, as noted in a visit by the Royal Commission in 1924, and by the 1970s no trace of the house was visible. Two watching briefs were carried out within the area of Preston House and its gardens in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The first, situated in the NE corner of Polwarth Park playing fields, recorded only 19<sup>th</sup> century features (Dalland 2002, 43). The second however, ahead of a swimming pool development, uncovered an organically rich buried soil containing medieval and post-medieval pottery and the footings of a sandstone wall (Mitchell 2003, 62). The function of the wall could not be established, but may potentially form part of Preston House grounds.

Bankton House was destroyed by fire in 1852, however enough of the building survived to be subsequently reused as a farmhouse for a short period. Until its recent refurbishment into modern apartments the building was again ruinous from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Although the building itself has undergone internal changes, it has been externally restored. The grounds of Bankton House and its boundaries appear to be extant with only limited modification. A watching brief and metal detector survey was undertaken in 2007 in a paddock within the vicinity of Bankton House (NT 39395 73705), but no archaeologically significant features or finds were uncovered (White 2007, 76).

### 5.2.4 *Cockenzie/Tranent Waggonway*

The Cockenzie/Tranent waggon way was constructed for transporting coal to the coast and was present in the 1745AD landscape and may have played some role in the action. Although potentially out with the core area of the battlefield it is important to note that the remains of the wagon way are extant with well

preserved features uncovered during excavation. Two archaeological investigations of the wagon way have taken place; in advance the A1 construction in 1995 (NT 405 736) and proposed housing development near Tranent Mains in 1999 (NT 407 734) and 2001 (NT 409 733). The latter investigations were carried out by machine cut evaluation trenches which in areas cut across the wagon way itself. In both cases deposits were uncovered relating to the initial construction of the rail bed with later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> rail-bed deposits and material on top (Lelong 1999, 32; Dunbar 2001, 37).

## 6.0 Project Aims and Objectives

The aims of the current fieldwork are:

- To assess the extent to which the battlefield of 1745 survives within the modern landscape, with development having in places had a profound effect on areas of the site.
- To place the battle within its contemporary context – relocating elements of the landscape, including buildings known to have been present at the time of the battle
- To use these results to assess the viability of a community based project which would involve the fuller excavation of identified archaeological features. This project would involve a small core team of professional archaeologists, archaeological students and members of the local community, including school children in a possibly long term project based around the vicinity of Prestonpans.

The aims and objectives are described in more detail below, with reference to each specific area of investigation.

## 7.0 Areas of Interest

### *Preston House and Bankton House*

Preston House, lay to the north of Bankton House and included a walled garden - outlined in red in Figure 1. Eyewitness accounts and contemporary maps attest to government soldiers fleeing the field to this location before becoming trapped by the eastern wall of the garden with many of them being killed there.

The area of house is today occupied by the community centre, though the open ground around the modern buildings may accommodate buried remains of the earlier house and related features. Geophysical survey will be carried out in order to test this hypothesis.

Bankton House and its walled garden still exist, albeit in a somewhat changed state since 1745. The property is surrounded by open fields (blue on Figure 1) and these will be subject to metal detector survey to establish whether the closing stages of the battle were as localised around Preston House as the contemporary maps suggest. This area may also provide evidence for military activity, in the form of camp debris, from both before and after the battle.

### 7.1 *Tranent Church*

The church yard, which overlook the government positions to the north, was occupied by a piquet of Jacobite troops who were dislodged by cannon fire from the governments light artillery pieces. The church was rebuilt in the early nineteenth century but the cemetery seems to occupy the same ground. A dovecot shown on an drawing of the original church is still standing. The sloping ground to the north of the church yard appears relatively undisturbed open farm land and will be subject to metal detector survey in an attempt to identify any evidence for the small action which preceded the battle (area marked in purple in Figure 1).

### 7.2 *Area of the Main Action*

There can be little doubt that the western edge of the battlefield has been subsumed beneath late twentieth century housing. On the eastern edge of this development is a children's play park in which a standing stone marks the nearby former location of the famous thorn tree, close to which Colonel Gardner received his fatal wound during the battle. The ground adjacent to the play park, to the east, is occupied by rough open ground (green on Figure 1) on the fringes of the coal storage area attached to the power station to the north. This area was once occupied by Thorntree farm, which was demolished at some point after the 1960s (it appears on the 1960 update of the OS map). Although not of interest itself,



- it wasn't built until the 19<sup>th</sup> century - but burials are reported to have come from close to the farm, possibly from this open area of ground. The presence of thick, reedy grass makes metal detector and geophysical survey problematic here but it may be possible to organise some limited mowing/strimming to permit a search for the burial site and the location of related battlefield debris.

The area with perhaps the highest potential to provide meaningful patterns of battle related material are the two fields to the east and south of the areas discussed above (red on Figure 1). These arable fields accommodate two ring works identified aerial photographs and have thus been designated a scheduled ancient monument. This designation will hopefully have dissuaded metal detectorists from removing material from these fields and this element of the project will represent an important opportunity to test the effectiveness of Scheduling in deterring the activities of unauthorised metal detecting.

### 7.3 *Rout of Government Army*

The position of the main action on the field, prior to the total rout of the government line, is likely to have occurred along the western fringe of the battlefield core (green and red areas on Figure 1). From here the accounts and indeed the contemporary maps (see front cover) describe the army fleeing westward, toward Preston House. Here they became trapped against the eastern wall of the house grounds and many of them were killed there. This area of the field, including the grounds of Preston House, has been taken up by modern development – houses and the community centre etc. However, small pockets of undeveloped ground do survive, in the form of private gardens attached to the houses. It is therefore intended as part of the project's community aspect to encourage local residents to participate in the archaeological investigation of their own lines, primarily through metal detector survey. A programme of leafleting has already taken place in the relevant streets, those between the Thorntree Mains area in the east and the former site of Preston House in the west, and at last one person has thus far come forward and attested to finding musket balls in their garden.

## 8.0 Project Methodology

### 8.1 *Historical Research*

A thorough search for relevant documentation is currently underway and has succeeded in identifying a rich variety of written accounts and contemporary maps. These resources will play a vital role in providing the project with a historical framework possibly providing further questions which can be answered archaeologically.

### 8.2 *Topographic Survey*

A detailed topographic survey will not play a role in the current phase of work – although any trenches and their attendant features will be surveyed using a full station EDM will be used in conjunction with a data logger for this task – as would any metal detector finds locations (see below).

### 8.3 *Trial Trenching Evaluation*

This would only be undertaken in the light of geophysical anomalies suggestive of archaeological features related to the battle, these features may relate to those of the former site of Preston House. A full revised project design will be prepared before any such works. It should be noted here that at the moment it is not intended to carry out any geophysical survey of the area protected as an ancient scheduled monument.

### 8.4 *Metal Detector Survey*

As unique archaeological landscapes battlefields require a distinct and specialised multi-disciplinary approach to their investigation. Battlefields are highly mobile events which may spread over an extensive area of the landscape and last only a matter of hours, and in the case of Prestonpans perhaps even minutes. Compared with other archaeological features such as settlements or monuments, battles as transient events leave a unique archaeological signature in the form of artefact scatters which are held in the topsoil. 18<sup>th</sup> century battlefields such as Prestonpans will leave behind a significant volume of debris including artefacts such as musket balls, cannon balls, case shot, buttons, buckles and other more personal items dropped or torn off during the fray. Traditional archaeological methods such as excavation are not suitable to record or recover these artefact scatters. As the vast majority of the assemblage is made of metals such as lead, iron and Cu alloys a systematic metal detector survey is the most appropriate technique. All finds of historical and archaeological interest will be recorded and retained for further anal-



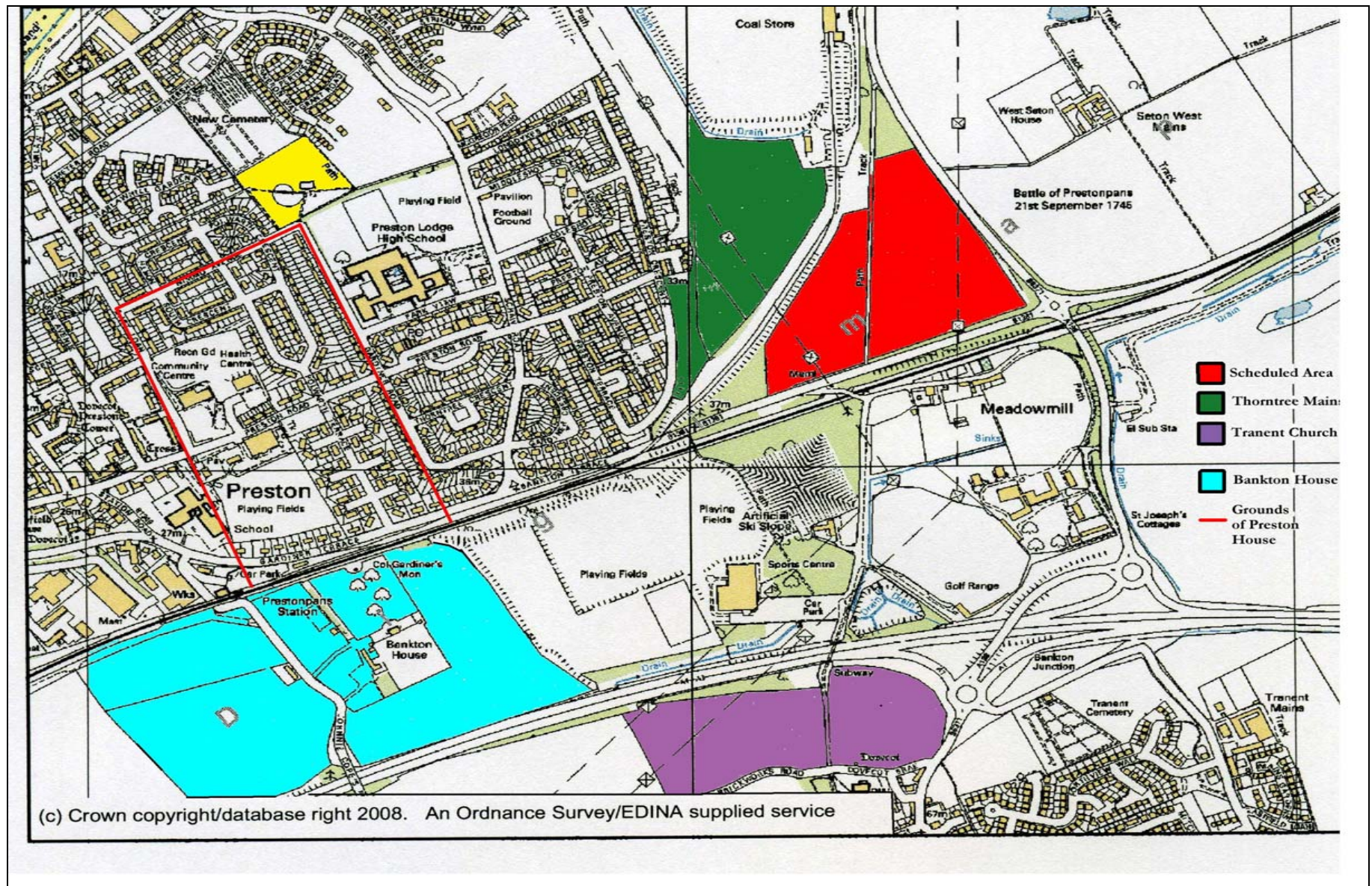


Figure 1:  
Areas of Interest.

ysis – no matter what period they date from. It is recognised the area corresponds to possible prehistoric settlement as suggested by aerial photograph evidence and it is possible that some artefacts may relate to this early activity. Although it is not intended to carry out fieldwalking, any pottery sherds observed on the ground surface will be surveyed and collected, and regarded as part of the artefact assemblage. Any obvious pieces of modern metallic junk will be discarded in the field – removed from the site and disposed of in a sensible fashion. All decisions on artefact disposal/retention will be made by a lead member of the archaeological team with experience in this aspect.

Amateur metal detectorists will play a key role in the survey of the battlefield. Volunteers will be drawn from SARG (Scottish Artefact Recovery Group) and the Scottish Detector Group, both of which have experience of working with professional archaeologists. However, the metal detecting team will be led by members of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology and GUARD, all of whom have considerable experience in metal detector survey, having pioneered a number of the techniques now widely accepted, and of working with amateur groups on sites such as Culloden. All artefact recovery will be closely supervised by members of the professional archaeological team, who will also carry out the three dimensional recording of the find location. A designated finds officer will ensure that all relevant details, e.g. finds numbers, grid numbers, etc are recorded on finds bags and entered into the manual log (locational recording will be carried out using a total station rather than the less accurate hand-held GPS system). Systematic metal detector survey will take place in the areas of interest as noted in section 6 and as colour coded on the map of the area provided above (Figure 1).

Locating these surveys is not a random process but requires a detailed assessment of documentary sources, including contemporary maps and battle plans; primary documents such as eye-witness accounts and reports; and secondary source material. Through the examination of this source material a number of potential areas may be identified for more intensive investigation through geophysics supported by limited excavation if necessary, or a systematic metal detector survey. This process of identifying key areas of investigation allows the archaeologist to effectively achieve the main aims of the survey which are to;

- Assess the potential for surviving archaeological material related to the battle and identify any threats that may affect its survival;
- Locate if possible the core area of the battlefield as identified by material recovered from the metal detector survey;
- To locate specific actions within the wider choreography of the battle e.g. location of artillery bombardment of church.
- Identify through metal detector survey the extent of the battlefield and its associated archaeology in order to advise future planning developments;
- Establish the character of the 17<sup>th</sup> century landscape and the extent of any associated buried remains.

The overall achievement of these aims is only possible through a system of accurate recording of find spot data and detailed analysis of the field data in post-excavation.

Once an area has been selected a system of grids will be set up to cover the area, dividing it up into 20 m x 20 m squares (this will obviously not be relevant to the survey of small garden plots). To ensure that 100% of the ground is covered each metal detectorist is assigned a grid square in which to survey. They will walk this square in narrow transects and then mark every signal they get with a flag. It is only after they have finished detecting the square that they return to each flag, potentially indicating an artefact, and excavate it. Once each artefact is recovered (this involves only a small plug of earth which is then replaced) from the ground it is bagged and then marked again with the flag. An archaeologist on the team will then record the location of each artefact using a Total Station (survey equipment capable of recording the position of an artefact to sub-centimetre accuracy) and assign it a unique number.

The survey will have minimal aesthetic impact and no damage to underlying deposits will be incurred as many of the artefacts are present in the topsoil and no deeper than 10 – 30 cm below the surface. Any turf lifted will be as small plugs of earth which are then replaced as quickly as possible. It is vital that the removal of artefacts is limited to the ploughsoil and does not extend into the subsoil below as this will potentially disturb *in-situ* buried deposits. Initially, the depth of the subsoil will be established through the excavation of a small test pit, c 0.5 m x 0.5 m, a process which will cease upon reaching the surface of the subsoil. This operation, which will be carried out by an experienced field archaeologist, will familiarise the



team with the depth and character of the topsoil and subsoil and provide a guide for the removal operations related to artefact recovery. All digging operations will be closely supervised by experienced field archaeologists who will be an integral part of the metal detector survey team.

## 9.0 Education and Outreach

A key aim of the project is to encourage the participation of the local community from Prestonpans and the surrounding area. The project looks to involve a wide demographic rather than simply focusing on those who are physically able to assist in field work, or who have an interest in archaeology and local history to begin with. Community participation must therefore reflect the various levels of interest and ability, with the aim of actively engaging people regardless of age or background.

The aims of the education and outreach aspect of the project are:

- to generate interest in the community about the local archaeological environment with particular focus on the battlefield.
- to develop an awareness in the local community of their local battlefield heritage.
- to encourage members of the local community to become involved in the project itself by volunteering to assist in the survey and excavation of the battlefield, or in the latter stages the processing of artefacts.
- to provide an opportunity for members of the local community to develop new skills using archaeology as a basis.

The project will run a series of Open days throughout the investigation, the first being 22 November 2008. The aim of the first open day is to introduce the project as well as ensuring the local community are aware of the project and how they can assist in it. They will also allow members of the local community to become involved by providing information about the area that may be of interest to the research of the battlefield e.g. artefacts, development of the town, folklore etc.

Local primary and secondary schools will also be encouraged to participate in the project. Archaeology is a discipline which incorporates well the key principles of 'A Curriculum for Excellence', enabling children to develop the key skills to become successful learners and confident individuals. Archaeology allows children to take the skills learnt in the classroom e.g. literacy and numeracy and apply them in a new environment outside the classroom. Regular contact with schools in the area has been established with the aim of involving groups of children in the project at varying stages.

## 10.0 Report Preparation and Contents

A report detailing the results of the investigation will be submitted to the East Lothian Archaeological Service and the Battle of Prestonpans Battlefield Trust within two months of completion of fieldwork.

The report will take the form of a Data Structure Report as specified by Historic Scotland. The report will include a full descriptive text that will characterise the date and extent of any archaeological deposits. It will also include plans at an appropriate scale showing trenches and archiving lists of all finds, samples, field drawings and photographs

This report will include an assessment of the viability of a longer term community project and provide an outline project proposal/design and a post-excavation design for material recovered during the evaluation. The report will also highlight areas of the site where high quality archaeological remains were found which may be suitable for protection and preservation.

A summary of the project results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. Should the results merit then a fuller report on the project will be submitted as paper to a relevant journal, such as the *Journal for Conflict Archaeology*.

## 11.0 Archive

The archive for the project will be submitted to the National Monuments Records for Scotland within three months of completion of the fieldwork. Copies will also be deposited with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service.

## 12.0 Finds Disposal

All artefacts recovered will be declared to the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel in accordance with Scots Law. All artefacts will be temporarily stored by GUARD until a decision has been made by the panel.

## 13.0 Timetable

The main part of the survey will take place over winter and early spring 2008-9. Some elements will be dependent on the cycle of sowing and planting in arable fields (which include the area protected as a scheduled ancient monument which was ploughed in late September 2008). Fieldwork will be completed by mid April 2009, though elements such as garden investigations may continue into summer 2009.

## 14.0 Personnel and Liaison

The project will be directed by Dr Tony Pollard (Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow). The project's education and outreach officer will be Natasha Ferguson (administrator of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology). The team will include two experienced field archaeologists from GUARD – no volunteers will be used at this stage of the project.

## 15.0 Monitoring

The GUARD project manager will liaise with the East Lothian Council Archaeology Service in all points relevant to the proper conduct of the project and in particular will give immediate notification of any artefact or archaeological discovery of extraordinary significance.

## 16.0 Health & Safety and Insurance

GUARD, operating through the University of Glasgow, adhere to the guidelines and standards prescribed for archaeological fieldwork set down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists approved Health and Safety in Field Archaeology document, prepared under the aegis of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. It is standard GUARD policy, prior to any fieldwork project commencing, to conduct a risk assessment and to prepare a project safety plan, the prescriptions of which will be strictly followed for the duration of all archaeological fieldwork. Copies of the resultant project safety plan and of GUARD's Fieldwork Safety Policy Statement may be viewed upon request.

## 17.0 References

Dalland, M 2002 Preston Road, Prestonpans, East Lothian (Prestonpans Parish, *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*, 43.

Dunbar, L 2001 Tranent Mains Farm, Tranent, East Lothian (Tranent Parish), evaluation, *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*, 2, 37-38.

Hill, I and Anderson, S 2007 Prestonlinks Community Woodland, East Lothian (Prestonpans parish), desk-based assessment and metal detector survey, *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*, 8, 76.

Lelong, O 1999 Tranent Mains Farm (Tranent Parish), 18<sup>th</sup> century railway, *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*, 32.

M'Neill, P 1845 *Tranent and its surroundings*. Glasgow: John Menzies & Co.

Mitchell, S 2003 Prestonpans Swimming Pool, Prestonpans, East Lothian (Prestonpans Parish), *Discovery and Excavation Scotland*, 62.

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