

A man and a child, both dressed in historical Scottish attire, are looking at a large map or informational display on a battlefield site. The man is wearing a red and black plaid jacket and a grey flat cap, while the child is wearing a blue flat cap and a dark jacket. In the background, a red flag with a white saltire is flying on a tall pole. The sky is overcast and grey.

PRESTONPANS BATTLEFIELD

Our vision for its future

The *Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust* is a registered Scottish charity working to increase awareness and understanding of the Battle of Prestonpans, and the protection and enhancement of the Battlefield, for the benefit of both the local community and visitors from across the world.

Prestonpans Battlefield is a designated and internationally significant heritage site which has experienced considerable investment and improvements in recent years, largely as a result of the work of the Trust. The battlefield is simultaneously experiencing a surge in visitor interest, and serious threats to its survival.

This document expresses the Trust's vision for the future of Prestonpans Battlefield, building on a decade of positive momentum to create one of Scotland's best interpreted battlefield sites. It is a vision for a battlefield worthy of the men who fought there in 1745, worthy of the communities which surround it today, and worthy of the thousands of people around the globe who wish to protect it.

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SECTION ONE: Background information

1 Historical Background

On the 20th and 21st September 1745, two armies faced one another across a pocket of land bounded on the north by the sea and the coastal settlements of Prestonpans and Cockenzie, and on the south by the long ridge atop which sits Tranent. These were the only two armies in Scotland, one fighting for the exiled King James VIII and one for the reigning King George II. Whichever won the battle gained effective control of the country.

The redcoats of George II were the paid and uniformed soldiers of the state, and are properly referred to as either the British Army or the Government forces. Commanded by an experienced officer, Lt-General Sir John Cope, the army contained around 2,100 foot soldiers and 600 dragoons (mounted troops), supported by six light cannon and a number of mortars.

Opposing them were the Jacobites (James is *Jacobus* in Latin), an untested force primarily composed of Gaelic-speaking Highlanders. They were led by the inexperienced but charismatic prince, Charles Edward Stuart, heir to the exiled dynasty. He had travelled to Scotland in July 1745 and raised his army of around 2,500 men from scratch. Against all expectations, the Jacobites had succeeded in capturing Edinburgh on 17th September. General Cope transferred his army by sea to Dunbar and began marching towards the Scottish capital. Charles Edward marched out to meet him on the road.

The two armies came within sight of each other on 20th September, as the Jacobite vanguard rushed up the slopes of Birslie Brae in order to control the high ground. The redcoats kept to the open plain east of Preston, where their advantages in firepower and cavalry could be optimised. The two armies faced each other north-south, but between them lay an impassable marshland known as the Tranent Meadows, which prevented them from attacking one another. There followed an afternoon of manoeuvres and counter-manoevres as they rival forces sought to gain the advantage. There were brief long-range musket exchanges, and cannon were fired to dislodge a force of Camerons from Tranent kirkyard.

During the night, in which a British attempt to launch explosive shells into the Jacobite camp quickly failed, a local man informed the Jacobite command of a pathway which bypassed the marsh that separated the two armies. Charles seized the opportunity and at 4am marched the army east, past the farm of Riggonhead and down onto the plain. The Jacobites formed up across the stubble fields, with Seton to their rear, and rapidly advanced against the enemy.

The redcoat forces were formed to receive them: the Jacobite march had been detected and a warning signal fired. But nothing could prepare them for the swiftness and determination of the Jacobite charge. Through the teeth of first their cannon fire and then their musket volleys, the Highlanders came on without faltering. They fired as they came, and the British dragoons began to panic. The artillery crews fled first, then the horsemen, whilst the first Jacobite clansmen overran the cannons and fell onto the now exposed flanks of the British infantry. After a brief but sharp fight, the whole British line collapsed. As it was pushed westwards it broke up completely, every soldier seeking safety from the ferocity of the Highlanders.

The British Army's suffering had only just begun: there were few avenues of escape. Many were cut down as they fled, and many more were taken prisoner as they found themselves trapped on the field by the walls of Preston House estate. Some attempted to make a stand, including one group who formed in a ditch near Bankton House and attempted to hold off the Jacobites. They were induced to surrender to prevent further bloodshed. Another stand was led by Colonel James Gardiner, owner of Bankton, who was later found mortally wounded beneath the solitary hawthorn tree which stood on the field. He later died in Tranent manse.

In all, perhaps 400 men died in the Battle of Prestonpans. The vast majority were British Army soldiers. Around 1,200 redcoats were taken prisoner, making Charles Edward's victory staggeringly complete. The remnants of General Cope's army escaped with him to Berwick-upon-Tweed, leaving the Jacobites in possession of the battlefield, the British baggage train, and most of Scotland. The victory was a major boon to their cause, and soon the army had more than doubled in size and was better equipped than ever. Their confidence had risen too, and on 1st November they marched out of Edinburgh intent on taking London. They reached as far as Derby before retreating to Scotland, and despite another victory at Falkirk the Jacobites were eventually defeated at Culloden on 16th April 1746.

The Battle of Prestonpans gave Charles Edward Stuart the confidence and the capacity to take his campaign to the next stage, transforming it from a potentially insignificant rebellion to a major military threat to the establishment. It proved to be a false dawn, but that was by no means inevitable and the battle certainly raised the stakes for all concerned. It also left an important artistic legacy which has persisted over the centuries, from Scots, English and Gaelic poetry to paintings and engravings, novels, plays and tapestries. The *Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust* aims to honour both of these legacies, the historical and the cultural, and since its foundation in 2006 has led a wide-ranging programme of research, events, education, and artistic commissions.

2 Conservation, Interpretation and Commemoration

For ten years the Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust's vision has been built on three main pillars: conservation, interpretation, and commemoration.

This will continue to form the basis of our vision as we look to the future.



Conservation

The protection and preservation of the battlefield is of critical importance to the Trust, and also we believe to the wider community. Conserving the integrity of the battlefield is important in three main respects.

Firstly, in order to ensure protect any surviving **archaeology** which may enhance our understanding of the site. This can range from shot deposits to human remains, and although many artefacts have been recovered or removed over the years there is likely to be a considerable amount still remaining.

Secondly, in order to preserve a sense of the historic **landscape**. Much of the battlefield has survived as open farmland, just as it was in 1745, and there is no compelling reason why this cannot continue. Not only does the maintenance of the open ground preserve the landscape in a recognisable historical form, but it also serves a valuable purpose to the today as a large green space at the centre of the distinct communities of Prestonpans, Cockenzie and Port Seton, and Tranent.

Thirdly, in order to ensure that present and future generations can feel that direct but immeasurable **connection** to our heritage which can only be achieved by physical contact with historic monuments and landscapes.

Prestonpans 1745 is designated as a site of national significance and registered on the Historic Environment Scotland *Inventory of Historic Battlefields*. This recognition requires that the battlefield is taken into serious consideration in planning decisions which might affect either its archaeology or its landscape integrity and context. As such, the Trust will continue to seek the support of Historic Environment Scotland for its protection against insensitive development.

The Trust has the active support of both the Scottish Battlefields Trust and the UK-wide Battlefields Trust in its ambition to protect Prestonpans Battlefield from development threats. An online petition in Spring 2016 has attracted nearly 13,000 signatures calling for the protection of the battlefield site.

In 2015 the Trust took out leases on the Battlefield Viewpoint at Meadowmill, the doocot at Bankton House, and the Colonel Gardiner Monument. All three have seen renovation works, including the restoration of the lost iron railing posts and chains around the Victorian monument.

Interpretation



Interpretation is the key to ensuring that present and future visitors to the battlefield are able to fully understand the battle and its significance. The Trust has already made considerable strides forward, and its interpretation strategies can be divided into off-site and on-site categories.

Off-site interpretation programmes have so far included: temporary and touring exhibitions, both in Prestonpans and further afield; talks and presentations on historical aspects of the battle and campaign; publication of works, both fiction and non-fiction; and educational classes at local schools. A key part of this strategy has been the

creation and exhibition of *the Prestonpans Tapestry*, which alone has helped take the story of the battle to over 350,000 people. Off-site interpretation is best used to maintain awareness and interest, encouraging continuing use of the on-site interpretation provision.

On the battlefield itself, the Trust has already installed 7 interpretation panels, divided into a Redcoat and a Jacobite trail with an introductory panel close to the 1745 memorial cairn. These were erected with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. In 2015 the old and worn interpretation panels on the pyramid at Meadowmill were dramatically improved, and the former coal bing is now once again fit for purpose as a panoramic viewpoint. These initiatives have now been supported by a comprehensive set of pedestrian signs (in English and Gaelic), and several road signs directing visitors to the viewpoint.

Further interpretation, in the form of an audio-visual presentation at Bankton House doocot and a downloadable mobile app, is due for completion by September 2016. The Trust is also seeking to offer a greater number of walking tours of the battlefield for both adults and school parties, and we are aiming to train a corps of volunteers to aid in their provision.

Commemoration

Not only is the battlefield a site of great historical importance, it is also the place where thousands of men risked their lives for causes they believed in. Hundreds of them died, many more hundreds suffered injuries, and there were examples of considerable courage on both sides. It is therefore not only appropriate but necessary that we continue to commemorate their valour and sacrifice.



The Trust has always endeavoured to do honour to the fallen, and annually lays wreaths to mark the anniversary of the battle. Commemorations have been held at the Colonel Gardiner Monument, the grave of John Stewart of Phisgul in Prestonpans kirkyard, and annually at the 1745 memorial cairn. Such ceremonies will continue, and the major re-enactment events which were held annually between 2007 and 2015 will now take place every three years as part of a wider programme in conjunction with the Scottish Battlefields Trust.

Permanent memorials to the fallen of both armies are being created by the Trust, with the aim of installing them in Throntree Field (see Battlefield West). These will mark the possible location of the burials, and will be unveiled with due ceremony after their installation.

3 Battlefield Landscape and Context

Some of the blame for the British Army's defeat can be attributed to their defensive posture in the face of an enemy that maintained the initiative. Both sides were eager for battle, and it was the landscape of the battlefield which forced upon the protagonists the day of manoeuvre and reaction which preceded the battle. The landscape also played a key role in funnelling and trapping fugitive soldiers, considerably increasing the scale of the Jacobite victory. We are therefore fortunate that

many of the key features of both the natural and built environments of the battlefield have survived, making it all the more important that we continue to work towards their protection.

i. Changes to the context's built environment

The village of Prestonpans has expanded significantly since 1745, incorporating the once separate inland settlement of Preston. The eastern side of Prestonpans including Preston Lodge High School and the surrounding housing estate, now covers the westernmost area of the British Army's rout, and the site of Preston House is covered by the Community Centre complex. An interpretation board marks the site of the latter, and archaeological work has been undertaken here. The church in Prestonpans (Prestongrange) has been remodelled over several construction phases in 1774 and 1891,¹ so we no longer have the original steeple from which Alexander Carlyle observed the rival armies with his father William, the church minister.² The elaborate grave marker of British officer John Stuart of Phisgul, who was killed at the battle, does survive in the churchyard but is badly weathered. The Trust has laid wreaths here on a number of occasions, it being the only marker of a known burial site.

The East Coast Mainline to London crosses through the battlefield, on the south side of the actual deployments on the day but between the deployment areas of day one. The railway was constructed in 1846 and runs to the north of Bankton House estate, closely following the line of the draining ditch which bordered the north side of the Tranent Meadows in 1745. As such it in fact acts as a convenient marker for this lost feature. A later spur of the railway line which served the former coal store of Cockenzie Power Station cuts across the western portion of the battlefield's surviving open ground, separating what we know as Waggonway Fields from Thontree Fields. The spur is on a raised embankment and is now disused.

The Tranent Meadows have been drained, and parts of their former site were used for mining in the twentieth century. The area of the marshes is bordered now on the north by the railway line and on the south by the A1 motorway. Mining operations have long ceased and the land is open once again, with the westerly area being turned into sports pitches (Meadowmill). This open belt still separates Prestonpans from Tranent, just as the Meadows did in 1745. In the 1960s a coal bing at Meadowmill was sculpted into a pyramid viewpoint providing panoramic views across the battlefield. The Trust

¹ The church's own website contains a good summary of its history: <http://www.prestongrange-church.org.uk>.

² Carlyle (1861): 114.

secured a lease on its summit in 2015 and has installed interpretation panels there, and Charles Edward Stuart's flag flies from the top as a visual marker for the battlefield.

The area around the battlefield was mined for coal since the middle ages, and open pits existed north of Tranent in 1745. These could be hazardous, as demonstrated by Carlyle's recollections of the days before battle:

'an unlucky dragoon... fell into a coal-pit, not filled up, when his side-arms and accoutrements made such a noise, as alarmed a body of men who, for two days, had been completely panic-struck.'³

These pits are no longer visible, but the coal-mining heritage of the battlefield cannot be ignored. Although the massive edifice of Cockenzie Power Station has been demolished, a network of overhead power cables cross the field of engagement towards the National Grid connection point to the north of the battlefield. They are a visual reminder that the battlefield was an industrial landscape even in 1745, with the historically significant coal waggonway running across it. The 1722 waggonway can still be traced in the landscape, and its middle section survives as a core path bisecting the Waggonway Fields area of the battlefield. It is important to consider the battle not as a single event separated from the wider history of the community, but part of a continuous story which is representative of the identity of the settlements on the site.

Tranent, has also expanded since the days of the battle. It saw conflict again when local protesters were dispersed by the military in 1797.⁴ It continued as an important mining town, with the waggonway which being extended and improved in the nineteenth century before it was eventually connected to the main east-west railway line. This reduced the importance of a link to the harbour and facilitated the closing of the north section of the waggonway. Tranent Church was rebuilt in 1799 but on the same site, whilst the churchyard itself, the dovecot, and the enclosing walls remain visible. From these locations the first shots of the battle were fired, and in an unmarked grave within the churchyard lie the remains of Colonel James Gardiner.

³ Carlyle (1861): 105. This autobiography contains a detailed and invaluable narrative of the events surrounding the battle. His father was a minister in Prestonpans, and so Carlyle was familiar with the landscape and personalities of the battlefield context. Although he was asleep when the battle itself began, he served Cope as a volunteer and observer on Sept 20th, and recalls well details of the British army and its morale, as this comment on the behaviour of Gardiner's dragoons demonstrates.

⁴ The 'Massacre of Tranent', 29th August 1797, when troops opened fire on a band, mainly of colliers, protesting against compulsory conscription, with dozens being killed and wounded.

Despite all of these changes, the overall layout of the landscape remains. The area of deployment on 21st September 1745 survives intact as open agricultural land (Battlefield East) as does the area of the British Army's disintegration (Battlefield West).

ii. *The surviving features of the battlefield*

It is the nation's great fortune that, despite the expansion of the settlements which surrounds the battlefield itself, many of the features which influenced or at least were present during the battle have survived. One of the most important is the general view of the landscape across which battle was engaged:

'The afternoon was gloriously fine, no clouds obscured the sun's bright rays or cast a shadow of gloom over the beautiful landscape which lay in front of the Highlanders' position; far away across the blue Forth rose the distant hills of Fife, dimly seen through the autumn haze; quiet fishing villages, with white-washed red-tiled cottages, were dotted here and there on the margin of the coastline; to the right the Bass Rock swam upon a sea of azure, and the Berwick Law raised its conical summit; to the left Arthur's Seat raised its quaintly outlined form against the western sky, enshrouded in the blue reek of the great city at its base; and almost at their feet, bathed in the warm glow of the golden September sun, great stretches of yellow stubble fields from which the corn had been newly reaped.'⁵



This view can still be readily appreciated today, and allows the visitor to identify the landscape of battle. In 1745 the best views were gained from Birslic Brae, although today the Viewpoint allows excellent 360^o views and a clear understanding of the relationship between the high ground at Tranent and the coastal plain below it. All the key features of the battlefield can be identified from the Viewpoint, as indeed can Edinburgh.

⁵ Norie (1901): II, 77-8. Although a secondary text, the description matches the landscape of 1745, and, more importantly for this consideration, the modern view also.

In Tranent the churchyard survives with its stout north-facing wall, making it is easy to understand why O’Sullivan considered this location defensible.⁶ The manse where Gardiner died of his wounds survives also, and although it is a private home the exterior can be seen from the churchyard.

Immediately west of Tranent Church, the steep-sided Heugh in which the waggonway once lay is easily discernable. Today it carries a public footpath which follows the line of the waggonway towards Cockenzie. The path passes under the A1 as it approaches Meadowmill, crosses the railway line, then heads almost due north across the central zone of engagement. It passes to the east of the former coal store (site of the main British Army baggage park) before skirting Cockenzie House where the military treasury was captured.⁷

The central area of actual combat on September 21st is preserved as open ground. The B1361 road lines the southern side, and the B6371 separates Battlefield West from Battlefield East and runs parallel with the battle lines. The Highland Charge came in from the east, hitting the British line and driving over where the road now runs. The British Army disintegrated in the Battlefield West area, where many of the casualties were inflicted.

A children’s playground occupies the approximate site of the thorn-tree where Colonel Gardiner made his last stand. He was found beneath the famous thorn tree which stood in the south-west corner of Thorntree Fields:

‘The field was entirely clear of the crop, the last sheaves having been carried in the night before, and neither cottage, tree or bush were in its whole extent, except one solitary thorn bush which grew... between Seton and Preston fields.’⁸

The core of the village of Preston survives within the expanded settlement around it, with several interesting buildings surviving from the original battle context. The most notable surviving features of the village are the ruins of Preston Tower, dovecot, and Preston Cross. The latter is one of the most important market crosses of its type in Scotland, whilst the castle was probably used on 20th September as a viewing point by Cope’s forces.

⁶ Colonel John William O’Sullivan, an experienced Irish officer in French service, now committed to the Prince with the rank of Adjutant-General. He was following standard military practice by installing troops in this strong-point, securing his front, contrary to the advice of Lord George Murray.

⁷ Reid (1996): 37; Chambers (1869): 125; 134.

⁸ Carlyle (1861): 180.

Whilst Preston House has been subsumed beneath later developments (all trace of it lost before the 1970s),⁹ Bankton House has been more fortunate. The house has had a turbulent life, being at various points damaged, derelict, and then burned, but it was restored in the 1990s and divided into flats. Bankton is an easily identifiable landmark, visible from the south on the A1 and the railway line. It is therefore something of an iconic structure, a visible reminder of Colonel Gardiner who owned the house in 1745 and fell in battle so close to it. The House was also significant as the main field hospital for the wounded after the battle, and in 1853 a large monument was erected in the grounds to its famous former owner.

PRESTONPANS BATTLEFIELD

Honouring one of Scotland's most famous battlefields

IN PLACE NOW

THREE STONE MONUMENTS
1745 Memorial Cairn - Thorntree Monument - Gardiner's Obelisk

SEVEN INTERPRETATION BOARDS
Covering the wider battlefield area, linked by pedestrian signage.

PANORAMIC VIEWPOINT
Refurbished interpretation on the summit of the Meadowmill coal bing, flying Bonnie Prince Charlie's iconic battle flag

COMING 2016

BANKTON HOUSE DOOCOT MUSEUM
The Colonel Gardiner Story brought vividly to life with state-of-the-art animation, opening the Doocot back up to the public

WALKING TOURS
Explore the site with our volunteer guides, or take yourself around with our new walking leaflet or downloadable APP

FUTURE VISION

FIELD OF REMEMBRANCE
New stone memorial tables in Thorntree Fields to honour the hundreds of soldiers who fell in the battle, many of whom may be buried there.

PROTECTION
The rest of Throntree Fields and the area around the historic wagonway and scheduled ancient monument protected from development and returned to agricultural uses with pedestrian pathways

INTEGRATED TOURISM
Bringing visitors to our communities and connecting the battlefield to the John Muir Way. Visitors can enjoy our coastline and parks (including Greenhills), and visitor other local attractions including a permanent home for The Prestonpans Tapestry

⁹ Pollard & Ferguson (2008): 7.

SECTION TWO: The Battlefield present and future

For the purposes of this document, we have divided the battlefield into three main zones: South, East and West.

I Zone One: Battlefield South

Key Battlefield features:

- Bankton House
- Bankton House Doocot
- Colonel Gardiner's Monument
- 1745 Memorial Cairn
- Battlefield Viewpoint, Meadowmill
- Tranent Kirkyard

Other notable features:

- Prestonpans Railway Station

Present state:



The southern area of the battle is currently the best interpreted and most accessible part of the site. The Viewpoint is sign-posted by road, and recently installed pedestrian signage now directs visitors to all the nearby locations.

There are interpretation panels at Colonel Gardiner's Monument, outside Tranent Kirkyard, and opposite the 1745 memorial cairn.

The summit of the viewpoint was completely refurbished by the Trust in 2015 and also now features up-to-date interpretation.

The original Victorian railing posts, most of which were lost, have recently been replicated and the installation of chains will complete the restoration of the monument's original appearance.

The overgrown footpath between the Gardiner Monument and the Doocot has been cleared and reopened with a new surface to facilitate public access, with the support of the local residents.

There is now good pedestrian access to all the key locations in this area, and car parking at Meadowmill to facilitate exploration. The sports ground has allowed the Tranent Meadows area to survive as open green space, allowing easy understanding of the topography.

The Trust has live leases on the Viewpoint summit, Gardiner Monument, and Bankton House Doocot.

Future aims:



Bankton House Doocot will be re-opened to the public by September 2016, featuring a state of the art audio-visual display describing the life of Colonel Gardiner and the role of his house in the battle. The doocot had been set aside for interpretation in 1995 but the old installations had fallen into disrepair and the site was never actively promoted to visitors. Its re-opening will mark a major achievement for the Trust.

The upcoming mobile app will encourage visitors to start their exploration of the battlefield from the Viewpoint and will also cover walkable features in the Battlefield West area.

To ease public walking routes from the Viewpoint to the 1745 memorial cairn, the Trust would like to explore the possibility of opening an access point in the fencing at foot of the north-east corner of the Viewpoint pyramid.

At Tranent Kirkyard, the Trust has begun discussions regarding the erection of a plaque in memory of Colonel Gardiner, acknowledging the approximate site of his burial.

The Trust is also in the process of exploring additional signage and promotional opportunities encouraging visitors to access the walking routes via Prestonpans Railway Station.

We will also ensure there continue to be regular walking tours and commemorative events in this area, particularly at the 1745 memorial cairn and Gardiner Monument.

II Zone Two: Battlefield East

Key Battlefield features:

- Area of deployment for both armies
- Area of main contact between the battle lines
- High archaeological potential
- Open agricultural landscape

Other notable features:

- On the extreme eastern edge of the site, Seton House and Collegiate Church

Present state:

Currently the Battlefield East area is a large open agricultural space which is actively farmed. This is important in that it preserves the landscape largely as it was in 1745, although there are a number of farm building and dwellings which are more recent interventions.

Public access is limited, although there is a public footpath running east-west through the whole field which allows you to follow in the footsteps of the Jacobite advance. There is a farm shop at Seton East Farm, and from the car park there are good views of the field and access to the footpath.

Despite being the area of deployment and attack, this is the least visited and interpreted part of the battlefield. This is largely because it is such a large space and is a considerable walk from the more accessible and iconic locations such as Bankton House, the Viewpoint, or Waggonway Fields. It is also working farmland and the landowner is not eager to encourage increased visitor flow to this end of the site.

At the extreme eastern edge of the site, beside the car park for Seton Collegiate Church, there is an interpretation board detailing the dawn march which brought the Jacobite army into this area on the morning of 21st September.

Future aims:

The Trust will continue to work towards a positive relationship with the landowner, with the hope of increasing access and decreasing the amount of uncontrolled metal detection (see Part V).

An achievable ambition is the erection of pedestrian signage at the eastern and western ends of the footpath.

The possibility of an interpretation board near the carpark for Seton Farm Shop should be a longer term aim.

Crucially, the Trust will campaign to ensure this area of the battlefield remains open agricultural land free from intrusive developments.

III Zone Three: Battlefield West

Key Battlefield features:

- 1722 Waggonway
- Area of British Army rout and Jacobite pursuit
- Location of Colonel Gardiner's last stand
- Throntree Monument
- Likely burial area
- Open ground (formerly agricultural but presently unused)

Other notable features:

- Disused railway spur to former coal store

Present state:

The western area of the battlefield is divided by the disused railways spur into two spaces: Throntree Fields and Waggonway Fields. Both areas witnessed the disintegration of the British Army in 1745, as

defeat became disaster. Across these fields fled the British soldiers, with their Jacobite opponents in hot pursuit. Here many of the casualties would have been sustained.

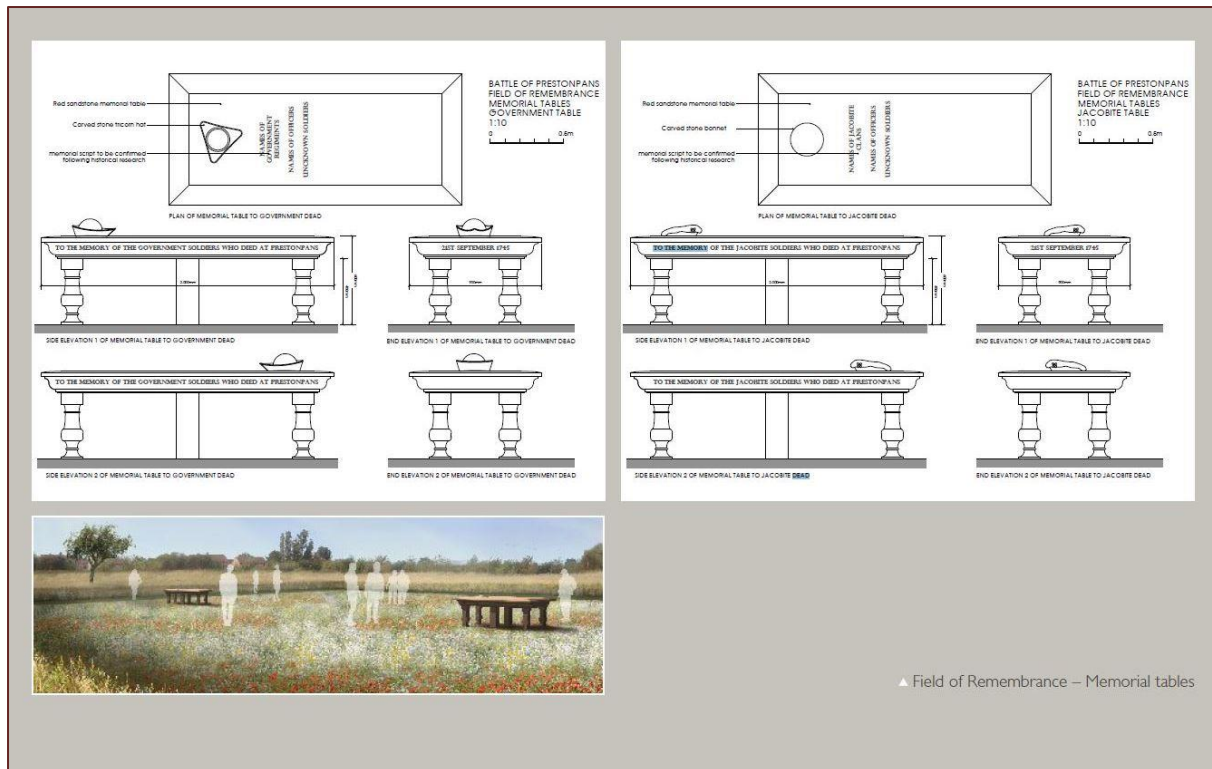
Local tradition strongly identifies Waggonway Fields with the events of the battle, and it was sometimes mistakenly spoken of as being the area of the British Army's initial deployment. Until farming here ceased in recent years, it was possible to walk here in September just after the harvest and see the fields almost exactly as they would have appeared in 1745.

The waggonway line itself cuts through the field, its route preserved as a footpath flanked by low walls. An interpretation board half way down describes the main action of the battle. Waggonway Fields also contain a scheduled ancient monument, identified by aerial photography and never excavated.

There is currently no public access from Waggonway Fields into Thorntree Fields, as a result of the now unused railway spur.

Thorntree Fields take their name from the hawthorn under which Colonel Gardiner was discovered in 1745, and the farm which later stood nearby. The location of the thorn tree itself is well documented, and is now covered by trees masking the railway spur at its south-west corner. The late twentieth-century Thorntree Monument stands in a children's playpark on the extreme eastern edge of the housing estate. It is little-known, but new pedestrian signage directs visitors to it.

From the monument there is foot access into Thorntree Fields, a large open area which was once Thorntree Mains farm. There is a tranquil atmosphere across this part of the site which makes it worth visiting even though there is no on-site interpretation here. On several occasions over the generations human remains have been found in Thorntree Fields, and there is a strong case for believing that the battlefield burials are sited somewhere here.



Future aims:

The Battlefield West area is currently under serious threat and the Trust will continue to fight determinedly for its protection and enhancement.

The Trust has repeatedly approached the current owner, Scottish Power, with requests to either lease or purchase the land to ensure its survival in the face of proposals to industrialise it. The Trust has also supported the Coastal Regeneration Alliance in its application for Community Right to Buy for the same purpose, and is supporting East Lothian Council's master-planning process for the area to ensure the protection of the battlefield is acknowledged in all future plans.

If Thorntree and Waggonway Fields were to come into local authority ownership, the Trust would reiterate its offers to lease and manage the battlefield land.

The Trust's aims for this part of the battlefield are focussed on the restoration of agriculture and the improvement of public access.

We would explore options for public access across or over the disused railway line to facilitate east-west access between Thorntree and Waggonway Fields, with supporting pedestrian signage. Further signage would connect the battlefield to the coast road opposite Greenhills park.

The Trust has outline planning permission to install two stone memorial tables in Thorntree Fields in tribute to those who fell at Prestonpans. These would be set into a meadow-like Field of Remembrance, separated from the farmed areas of the site. The memorial tables would mark the approximate location of the burial pits and would be a permanent monument in memory of both the Government and Jacobite casualties. Such a memorial is long overdue.

IV Wider Context: Waggonway, Riggonhead and Prestongrange

The 1722 Tranent-Cockenzie Waggonway

Along with the Coastal Regeneration Alliance, the Trust is eager to see the significance of Scotland's first railway line appropriately acknowledged. The Battlefield mobile app will also include a walking route for the waggonway, therefore, and funding has been secured for initial signage of the route. Further interpretation and markers are being planned. The waggonway is an important piece of history in its own right, and complements the battlefield not only in its place in the landscape but also in connecting the events of 1745 to the wider history of the community.

Riggonhead/Blindwells

The pre-dawn march which led the Jacobite Army down from Tranent and onto the plain at Seton was a crucial manoeuvre in determining the events of the battle. The route passed through a defile close to the farm of Riggonhead. Much of this area (Blindwells) was mined in later years and so the defile and other landscape features have been lost. The Trust has however commemorated its importance with regular pre-dawn marches to the battlefield.

Much of this area is now scheduled for development as a new town, and the Trust has liaised with both the local authority and the owners over the years to ensure that the importance of this area to the battle is not overlooked. Part of the site is identified as Prince's Park in early Ordnance Survey maps, further reinforcing the traditional connection between the Blindwells area and the battle.

The Trust hopes that the owner/developer will acknowledge the battlefield heritage of the site in its plans for the new town, and we will continue our positive engagement with them to facilitate this. We are also hopeful that the name Riggonhead is chosen for the new town, or perhaps even Charlestown.

Prestongrange Museum

The Trust has been working for six years to establish a major interpretation centre to present the story and legacy of the battle and to house the Prestonpans Tapestry. Several sites have been considered but the preferred option is Prestongrange Museum, where we propose to convert the old miners' bathhouse into a state-of-the-art museum interpreting the battle. At Prestongrange the battle and industrial heritage of Prestonpans can be contextualised in two side by side attractions, just as they coexisted in 1745. Discussions with East Lothian Council are continuing.

The development of a permanent exhibition site at Prestongrange (or another local site) would be a major tourism draw, and from the centre exploration of the battlefield itself would be facilitated and encouraged. All our interpretation plans for the battlefield area are designed both to stand independently of future developments elsewhere and to work in support of them.

V Threats and Challenges

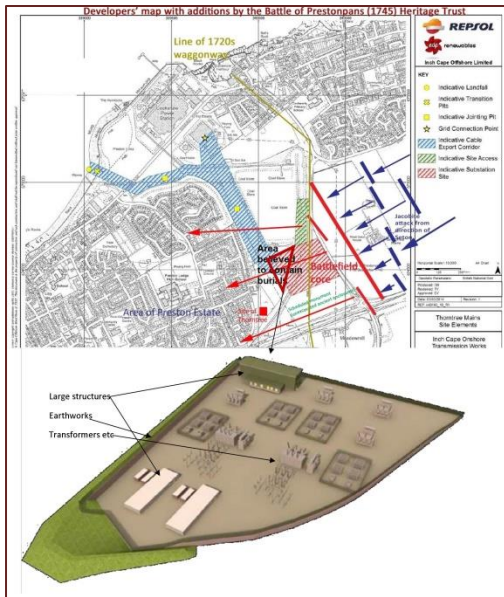
Prestonpans Battlefield has the potential to be one of the best interpreted and most accessible battlefield sites in Scotland, and it is already a long way down that road.

However, there are major threats to parts of the battlefield which must be met head-on by the Trust.

The most immediate of these is the threat to the survival of the Battlefield West area. In the last two years there have been repeated proposals to industrialise this part of the battlefield, each using wilfully misleading interpretations of the 2009 archaeological report to denigrate the importance of this area. Such proposals are in direct conflict with the interests of the battlefield and its designated status on the national inventory. A recent petition has gained nearly 13,000 signatures from around the world, calling for the battlefield to be protected from such proposals and developments, and it is hoped that such a powerful demonstration of public support will aid our campaign.

The Trust will continue to engage positively with all parties involved in planning for the future of the community and its landscape, but will vigorously oppose any proposals which threaten the integrity of the battlefield. The Trust has undertaken ten years of research into understanding and

interpreting this battle, and accordingly its views should be taken into serious consideration during consultation and planning processes.



The InchCape Onshore project has outline planning permission for an industrial compound in Thorntree Field (left), and the Trust will continue to oppose this insensitive development if it moves towards an application for full planning permission.

The Trust's view remains that there is sufficient brownfield land north of the battlefield, on the former power station and coal store footprint, to negate any necessity for expansion of industry into the open spaces of the battlefield. We will continue to make this case, and the positive case for the protection and interpretation of

the battlefield, whatever challenges the future holds.

A further but less visible challenge is the reported increase in illicit or uncontrolled metal detection on the battlefield. This has been raised with us by members of Treasure Trove, who have expressed concerns that important archaeological deposits are being removed or disturbed without proper recording. The Trust presently has no power to intervene in this as it is something only the landowners can work to prevent, although we will seek to do whatever we can and to encourage others to do likewise. The Trust will also seek to recover, whenever possible, any artefacts known to have been taken from the battlefield, and to engage positively with metal detectorists to encourage the reporting of finds which are made with landowners' permission. Detection without permission is a criminal offence.

CONCLUSION

The *Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust* is looking forwards from a position of strength, having already made considerable improvements to access and interpretation on Prestonpans Battlefield. The future is one which must focus more on conservation and protection, as the increasingly public awareness and use of the battlefield has not yet proved sufficient to protect it from damaging development proposals.

By the end of 2016 the battlefield will be able to boast a varied and engaging range of interpretation options, and a future vision which is both achievable and supported by a broad section of the local community.

Prestonpans Battlefield should be viewed not just as a highly significant heritage site, but as a major community asset which has the potential – if properly interpreted, promoted and protected – to not only draw international audiences but also to play a role in the community’s sense of place and identity.

