



Prospectus for the Nation
Conserving and Interpreting Scotland's Heritage

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Portrait of Charles Edward Stuart by Kate Hunter, specially commissioned by the Trust in 2010.

Front cover: Highlanders fire at redcoats as they flee across the Forth to Pittenweem.

Foreword

The Battle of Prestonpans was a defining historical moment – not only for our town, but for Scotland. Over the past thousand years Prestonpans has been a vital part of the nation’s industrial history, a major centre producing everything from pottery, soap and sulphuric acid to bricks, beer and coal. But the Victory achieved on September 21st 1745 by Bonnie Prince Charlie and his supporters from the Highland Clans was absolutely unique. It stunned Great Britain and Continental Europe. For six weeks it broke the Union and shook the Hanoverian government to its foundations.

The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust warmly congratulates Historic Scotland on its recent decision to invest £5 million to build a new visitor centre at the site of the Battle of Bannockburn in conjunction with the National Trust for Scotland. Taken together with the National Trust's delivery of a £9.4 million Battlefield Memorial Centre at Culloden in December 2007, these developments represent an important step forward in the interpretation and commemoration of two major events in our country's story.

This Prospectus concerns a battle site of European significance which, as yet, has not received any significant financial support from Government. Instead, it has been the focus of grass-roots efforts by the people of Prestonpans to develop proposals for a Living History Centre, to interpret the battle and the local industrial heritage. It is intended that this would operate as a self-financing cultural destination, which would contribute to the local and national economy and would generate community, social and educational benefits for the area. Our local community has approached its stewardship of the battlefield with deep respect, creativity, and great determination, that can serve as an exemplar for other parts of the country. The primary objective is to celebrate the Prince's campaign, from his landing at Eriskay to his greatest triumph at Prestonpans.

The Battle should be presented as it truly was – an inspiring example of youthful Hope and Ambition, achieved through the fierce loyalty and valour of Scottish Clansmen. Since 2000 we have worked with historians and archaeologists to develop a better understanding of the Prince's strategy. This will be recounted in the Living History Centre, employing 21st century technology and the latest interpretive techniques, to trigger the imaginations of visitors of all ages. Through a detailed study by specialists in the field, it has been established that the Centre could attract well over 100,000 visitors each year, including international tourists, day-trippers from across Scotland, schools and community groups. To raise the level of public consciousness of the Battle, and of our campaign to protect and interpret its site, we have organised re-enactments, living history days, arts and school learning programmes, and toured our BattleBus throughout Scotland. Much of this work is detailed in this Prospectus. One recent project, however, merits special mention. This is the 104-metre Prestonpans Tapestry, the world's longest, completed earlier this year by 200 volunteer embroiderers drawn from across the country. Their eagerness to devote their energy, flair and skills to retell the events leading up to the Battle was remarkable. Without question, the tapestry is one of the great community art works of the early 21st century. It will be a key attraction for the visitors to the proposed Living History Centre.

Up to the present, our work has been supported by two far-sighted private benefactors, Dr Gordon Prestoungrange and Malcolm Scott, to whom we are eternally grateful. Also, we have received project funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Scottish Arts Council and East Lothian Council. The capital cost of the Living History Centre has been estimated at £7million, and so we feel that this is the moment to request assistance towards achieving that figure from Government. Were it possible to make £5 million available over a three-year period, we believe that we could raise the balance from a variety of sources. It is our conviction that the Scottish Government will have the necessary vision to support our proposal, which would breathe new life into an ailing community and give appropriate recognition to one of the great battles fought on Scottish soil. We are calling on Government to support our dream of "Victory, Hope and Ambition" for the community of Prestonpans.

Gareth Bryn-Jones
Chairman

The Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust
November 2010

The Significance of Prestonpans

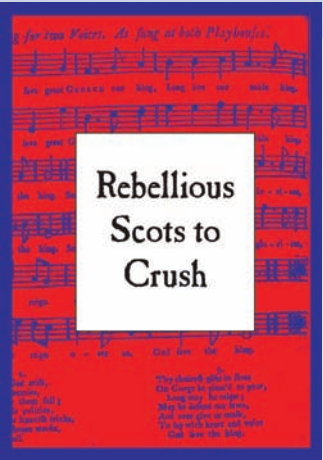
The Battle of Prestonpans was the first significant conflict in the second Jacobite Rising and took place on September 21, 1745. The Jacobite army loyal to James Francis Edward Stuart and led by his son Charles Edward Stuart achieved a stunning victory over the Redcoat army loyal to the Hanoverian George II, led by Sir John Cope. While initially known as the Battle of Gladsmuir, the battle was actually fought just east of Prestonpans, on the town’s borders with Cockenzie and Port Seton. The victory was a huge morale boost for the Jacobites, and a mythologized version of the story quickly entered art and legend. The overall message then as today was one of Hope and Ambition in the breast of a young man and his followers.

Prestonpans was a battle of huge international significance. It needs to be considered as part of a wider conflict that dominated the political scene across Europe and beyond. Prince Charles had previously been invited to France, where he had been promised military and financial support for his plans to restore the Stuart monarchy in Britain. Bad weather had delayed preparations, and the Prince had audaciously begun his campaign without formal assistance. Nevertheless, the French continued to support the Rebellion, and the treaty of Fontainebleau signed after the battle of Prestonpans guaranteed troops, money, and munitions throughout 1745-6. France and Britain were part of opposing coalitions fighting in the War of the Austrian Succession (1740-8) and the Jacobite Rebellion was a convenient new front against George II. Since the defeat at Prestonpans obliged the British Government to withdraw forces from the continent, it had repercussions on the war in Europe. On a national level, Prestonpans was a dramatic and unexpected event that

threatened the very political structure of Britain. By formally declaring his father as king at each town he passed, and by raising funds through taxation and existing civil structures, Prince Charles and his court at Holyrood gave the outward impression of ruling Scotland. In actual fact large areas of the country, including Glasgow, opposed him, but the victory at Prestonpans gave his cause prestige and raised the chances of gaining support both at home and abroad. Because of the Rebellion’s ultimate failure at Culloden, it is easy to underestimate the impact of the Jacobites’ victory at Prestonpans upon the nation in 1745. This impact is clearly highlighted by the literary legacy of the battle. Within weeks of it being fought, a new song had been penned in London to drum up support for the Government at a time of need: God Save Great George Our King, later to become the national anthem of Great Britain. The literary heritage inspired by the Battle of Prestonpans is well acknowledged, especially in the local community itself. In 2008, the

Trust commissioned an anthology of this literature, intended to demonstrate the battle’s importance both to contemporaries and to later generations. It is also vital to acknowledge the role that the Battle of Prestonpans played in the rediscovery of Scottish culture in the nineteenth century. After the Jacobite Rebellion’s failure, draconian new laws clamped down on traditional Scottish dress and music, as well as reforming the socio-political makeup of the Highlands in particular. But Scottish culture had a subsequent resurgence when it became fashionable in the early 1800s. One key catalyst for this rediscovery was Walter Scott’s novel Waverley, which was published in 1814 and quickly became an international bestseller. By focusing on the Battle of Prestonpans and the slaying of Colonel Gardiner, the novel raised the reading public’s awareness of the battlefield. Scott saw something in this battle that could represent the valour and aspirations of traditional Highland culture in a positive manner. The Battle of Prestonpans has immense

resonance in the community today. Its presence is felt through new scholarly research, works of art and literature inspired by its legacy, and events that re-enact the battle and its key moments. The site of the battle still remains as a monument to that day, and its care and stewardship by the local community is an exemplar unrivalled in the UK. The Trust is also a leader in the national debate about how these significant places are preserved and designated, and also how using the messages from them can influence our thinking about the country's past, present and future.



Engaging a Community – Nurturing Local Involvement

The battlefield of Prestonpans is a huge part of the town’s history and is a source of local pride for the community. Yet, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the site of this decisive battle was incorrectly marked and important sections had already succumbed to housing development. There was virtually nothing to interpret or present the battle to determined visitors who managed to find their way there. Although practically everyone living in Prestonpans knows the significance of 21st September 1745 to their community, many were not sure precisely what took place that day.

A local history teacher, Peter MacKenzie, was determined to remedy this situation. Beginning in 2000 he started his annual Battlefield Walks, an excellent way of engaging the public with the landscape’s history first hand. Although practically everyone living in Prestonpans knew the significance of the 21st September 1745, many were not precisely sure what took place that day. Ad hoc contributions have been made over the years to mark aspects of the battle, such as the memorial cairn and the monument to the Hanoverian hero Colonel Gardiner – both in need of proper presentation and maintenance. Previous anniversaries were commemorated mainly by historians, but the 250th anniversary was spectacularly celebrated. This involved re-enactments and the creation of a collection of artefacts at Bankton House Doocot. However, these were subsequently rarely on display and the memory of the 250th anniversary celebrations quickly faded. Clearly

something permanent and appropriate to the significance of the victory needed to be done. Prestonpans Community Council joined forces with the Prestoungrange Arts Festival to take a grassroots initiative. The Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust was formed to harness the ideas of the community and bring their dream to the attention of the nation.



Walking the Riggonhead Defile at 4am is re-enacted every year.

The Birth of the Trust – a History of Commemoration

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The people of Prestonpans are determined to ensure the Victory gained by Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745 is commemorated through world-class and accessible ‘living history’ interpretation. The Trust was in one sense an extension of the work of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival, whose members felt the conservation, interpretation and presentation of the battlefield was an overwhelmingly significant issue for Scotland. Accordingly the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust was founded to involve the ‘whole nation’, all the while building on the existing strengths of the town’s arts community. The remembrance of the battle on the 100th, 150th, 200th and 250th anniversaries had been successful, but the Trust believed a permanent, ‘living history’ approach was called for.

With the benefit of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and local matching donations, Dr Tony Pollard and colleagues from Glasgow University’s Battlefield Archaeology Centre conducted a careful examination of the battle site. They were able to argue from artefacts found that the precise location of the initial clash was close by Seton Farm East. They have also been able to evaluate Scotland’s first railway – the gravity Waggonway that ran across the subsequent field of battle, carrying coal downhill from Tranent to Cockenzie Harbour.

A significant programme of annual September re-enactments of known incidents from the battle was instituted in 2007, with the support of uniformed volunteers from the Czech Republic, Holland, Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland. In Prestonpans an extensive mural was painted at the town’s primary school in 2006. Under the leadership of ‘Colonel’ Adam Watters, with the support of the Prestonpans Pipes and Drums of the Royal British

Legion, the Alan Breck Regiment of Prestonpans Volunteers has been raised. The Trust’s official historian Martin Margulies became the Regiment’s first ‘Colonel-in-Chief’. Arran Johnston of Derby has played the Prince himself since the outset.

On the occasion of The Gathering and Scotland’s Homecoming in 2009, the Trust’s Exhibition of The Prince’s Clans who came out at Prestonpans attracted descendants from as far away as New Zealand.

Theatre has made a major contribution with two plays from the Aberlady native and BAFTA-winning playwright Andrew Dallmeyer; firstly *The Battle of Pots ‘n’ Pans*, which toured the county and went to the Edinburgh Fringe in 2009, and secondly *Colonel Gardiner – Vice and Virtue*. The local Cuthill Press imprint was created and has enabled writers to create new novels based on the battle, with Sharon Dabell’s *A Backward Glance* and Roy Pugh’s *The White Rose and the Thorn Tree*. Gordon Prestoungrange has also



contributed his own novel, *A Baron’s Tale*, which tells of William Grant’s involvement at the time and later as Lord Advocate. The famous apologia for Cope written in 1898 by Cockenzie-based General Sir Robert Cadell has been reprinted.

In 2009 the Trust matched grants received from the Scottish Arts Council and Awards for All to enable Greg Dawson-Allen to become Storyteller

of the Battle, taking the tale to schools across the county and beyond. He was joined at these visits by Adam Watters and also Gordon Veitch a former European Battlegaming Champion. On behalf of the Trust, Gordon Veitch has constructed a 10ft x 8 ft topographical representation of Prestonpans and the battlefield in 1745. Players relive the epic struggle between Cope and the Prince and annual championship competitions are arranged.

Celebrating the Battle – Victory, Hope and Ambition

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Since its foundation in 2006, the Trust has been leading a varied programme of events to celebrate the Battle of Prestonpans. This has included heritage activities that bring the past back to life, including the annual battle re-enactments, battlefield walks and the formation of the local regiment. The legacy of the long-standing and historically-based Prestoungrange Arts Festival has been a catalyst for creativity with the arts flourishing locally – from plays and storytelling to murals, poetry, novels and, most recently, a sensational tapestry. The Trust’s own mobile BattleBus [formerly a Mobile Library] has brought the celebrations and information by DVD and face-to-face presentations to locations across the country.

2006



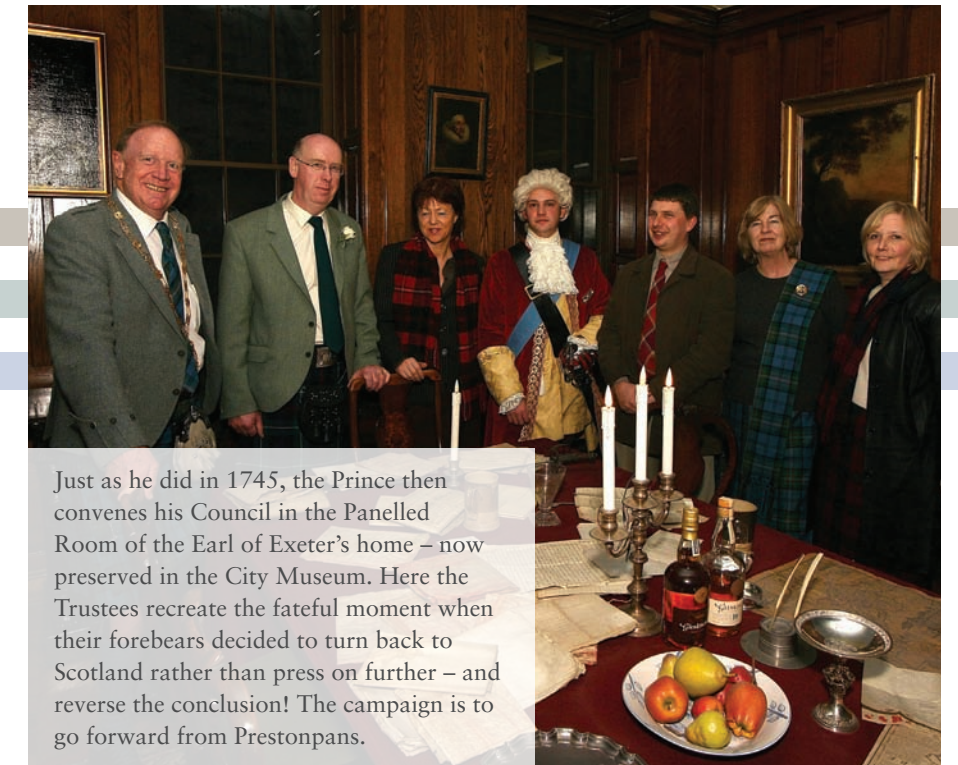
August

Andrew Crummy and more than sixteen local artists come together to paint Europe’s first Mural-in-a-Day. The participants are aided by Californian Art Mortimer, one of the world’s leading muralists, John Pugh and Wei Luan. The mural depicts Sir John Cope’s famous flight from Prestonpans after the Highlanders’ routing of his army. This was especially appropriate since Prestonpans is already recognised as ‘Scotland’s Mural Capital’, with more than 40 murals telling the industrial and social heritage of the community.



December

The Mayor of the City of Derby invites the Trust to relive the Derby Moment, 261 years after the invading Highlanders reached his city. The Trust’s participation begins at Swarkestone Bridge, the southernmost point reached by the Prince’s army. Bonnie Prince Charlie is portrayed by Arran Johnston of Derby’s Charles Edward Stuart Society.



Just as he did in 1745, the Prince then convenes his Council in the Panelled Room of the Earl of Exeter’s home – now preserved in the City Museum. Here the Trustees recreate the fateful moment when their forebears decided to turn back to Scotland rather than press on further – and reverse the conclusion! The campaign is to go forward from Prestonpans.

Celebrating the Battle – Victory, Hope and Ambition

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Celebrating the Battle – Victory, Hope and Ambition

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“The Trust wants to see the arts celebrated and developed, both for the benefit of the community and as an added attraction to the centre. The enormous emotions stirred by the outstanding victory at Prestonpans have provided inspiration for artists and authors over the centuries. Both Sir Walter Scott, in *Waverley* and Robert Louis Stevenson, in *Kidnapped*, featured characters based on participants in the battle. Countless songs, poems and paintings were also inspired by the event and the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust is determined to celebrate this positive creative energy. The Prestoungrange Arts Festival and local events such as the Three Harbours Festival have already put Prestonpans on the map as a cultural and creative place to be. The Trust wants to build on the artistic heritage of the past and make it relevant to the 21st century.

East Lothian Courier, September 14 2007

2007

June

The Battle of Pots ‘n’ Pans, a new Pageant written by Aberlady-born Andrew Dallmeyer, is premiered. The play is performed on June 8th at Prestongrange Church. The audience, who earlier walked the battlefield, included Helen Crummy MBE – the renowned community arts leader from Craigmillar, members of the Royal Society of Arts and many more.

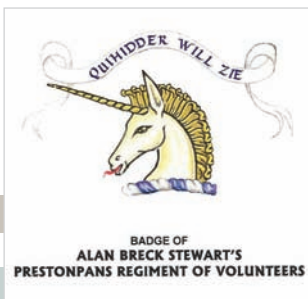


The play opens with two actors discussing the day’s Old Firm match as they wait for the director and fellow performers to arrive to rehearse the production they are staging – a pageant in honour of the Battle of Prestonpans. As it unfolds, the play provides humour and poignancy as it explores the parallels between modern sectarianism and the divided loyalties and prejudices which abounded in the days of Bonnie Prince Charlie. The production is a collaboration between many East Lothian artists and was inspired by the Prestonpans community’s campaign to have the battle site protected and properly interpreted.



September

The Battle of Prestonpans is re-enacted on its 262nd anniversary. Visiting re-enactors come from as far afield as the Czech Republic, and the Forth Yacht Club rescue escaping Redcoats from Morrison’s Haven.



A new local regiment, Alan Breck’s Prestonpans Volunteers, is formed to enable everyone to take part in Living History events. The regiment takes its name from the famous character in Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Kidnapped* – a Redcoat who switches sides to the Prince at the Battle of Prestonpans.

2008



April

The Trust’s new mobile information centre – the *BattleBus* – is officially launched. The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust bought the county’s former mobile library vehicle, which it has converted into a dedicated centre for distributing information on the battle and the Trust’s campaign. It tours around East Lothian and nationwide over the summer months.



May

The Battle of Pots ‘n’ Pans tours six venues across East Lothian. Later in the year it is performed at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and formed a key element in the battle anniversary celebrations in September.



July

The Alan Breck Prestonpans Volunteer Regiment hosts its inaugural Regimental Dinner at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg. The Regimental celebrations include piping and highland dancing demonstrations, as well as the dinner. The Royal British Legion musicians in Prestonpans were appointed the Regiment’s Pipes and Drums and receive their Alan Breck colours at the dinner.



September

The 1st Biennial Battlefield Conference & Symposium convenes in Prestonpans, exploring not only the significance of Prestonpans but also the national initiative to protect important battlefields. Extensive cameo re-enactments include walking the Riggonhead Defile in the morning as the Highlanders did 263 years before. Bankton House is the scene of fierce fighting and the re-enactors face one another across the Waggonway.

Celebrating the Battle – Victory, Hope and Ambition

Scotland is to get its own version of the Bayeux tapestry — to tell the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie's greatest success, rather than his crushing defeat at Culloden. The 330ft long artwork will consist of dozens of individual scenes depicting the Jacobite leader rallying the clans and leading them to triumph in battle. The tapestry is the brainchild of the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust, which aims to commemorate Charles Edward Stuart's "youthful hope and ambition" in 79 different scenes.

Professor Martin Margulies, the author of the definitive historical account of the Battle of Prestonpans, added: "Prestonpans set the stage for one of the most dramatic and crucial moments in British — perhaps even world — history: the turnabout at Derby. If Charles had kept on going, instead of retreating at the chiefs' insistence, would he have won? If he had won, would he have kept his promise to break the union?"

The Sunday Times, August 23 2009

Last weekend's annual re-enactment celebrations for the Battle of Prestonpans were the biggest and best yet but the result was still the same! Now in its third year, the event attracted more than 100 Redcoats and Jacobites, who played out the historic battle in front of an audience of about 500 people at Cuthill Park.

The air was filled with the sound of six cannons and dozens of muskets. Re-enactors came from Northern Ireland, Czech Republic, Glasgow University and from Derby south of the border as well as Prestonpans' own Alan Breck Regiment.

East Lothian Courier, September 25 2009

2009



July

Colonel Gardiner: Vice and Virtue, written by Andrew Dallmeyer, is staged at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg as part of the Homecoming celebrations, along with the Prince's Loyal Clans exhibition and events programme. The Camerons occupy Tranent churchyard in a re-enactment for visiting Camerons from New Zealand. The play, written by Andrew Dallmeyer, is set at Gardiner's deathbed, where he reflects on the various phases of his eventful life. It follows him from his youth in the bars and brothels of Paris, through his dramatic religious conversion in 1719, and later years living in Bankton House in children Prestonpans respectably married to Lady Frances and father of thirteen.



September

2009 sees perhaps the finest re-enactments staged in The Pans since the 250th anniversary. For the first time all re-enactors are invited to camp in Cuthill Park and visitors are welcomed and able to share in yarnning about long-ago Jacobite and Redcoat times. Greg Dawson-Allen, the Trust's Storyteller-in-Chief, is present throughout with a fine stock of tales and some stories for youngsters. Re-enacting the actual battle scene, the Camerons charge and capture twelve artillery, Cope's baggage train is seized at Cockenzie House and Redcoats escape from the beach to Pittenweem. The Riggonhead Defile is walked once again at 4am and the re-enactments conclude with a Ceilidh.

2010

May

In late 2009 the Scottish National Portrait Gallery reluctantly accepted that there was reason to suppose the portrait it had earlier identified as Bonnie Prince Charlie was probably his younger brother, Prince Henry – later proclaimed the



last of the Stuart Kings, Henry IX. The Trust evaluated many 'other' putative portraits of Bonnie Prince Charlie but could not locate one that captured the spirit of either the Prince himself or our campaign. On that basis the Trust commissioned Kate Hunter – a familiar artist in Prestonpans – to paint a new portrait. Nicola Kalinsky, Chief Curator and Deputy Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, who was at the Trust's 2nd Biennial Conference & Symposium when it was first unveiled, commented: 'Kate Hunter has produced a contemporary and imaginative portrait of Charles which convincingly conveys the dignity of the Stuart face. It's a real success and will work as a very powerful and recognisable image.'

Celebrating the Battle – Victory, Hope and Ambition

A project which commemorates Bonnie Prince Charlie's victory at the Battle of Prestonpans has drawn on the talents of 200 volunteers, who between them have created record-breaking art.

Crummy says the best thing about the project has been the enthusiasm of the stitchers and the unfolding of the new tales around the old one. "There are two levels to the tapestry," he says, "there are the actual panels showing the story of Bonnie Prince Charlie, and there's the story of why all these women wanted to commit 250 hours each to stitching our tapestry... There's a lot of caring going on..."

Scotsman Magazine, July 10 2010

The re-enactments organised by the Battle Trust have become an annual event to celebrate the famous battle. Arran Johnston, an Executive Trustee and responsible for the 2010 re-enactments who plays the key role of Bonnie Prince Charlie said: "We are thrilled with the scale of this year's celebrations. More than 150 armed with muskets and cannons will descend on Prestonpans. There is also a schedule of drills and displays throughout the weekend and large living history encampments".

Edinburgh Evening News, September 21st 2010

2010



July/September

The Prestonpans Tapestry is premiered on Eriskay and then paraded across Scotland on the precise dates the Prince visited each location in 1745. More than 10,000 view the internationally acclaimed artwork in the first eight weeks. Celebrations crescendo when the Tapestry arrives in Prestonpans Community Centre during the annual battle re-enactments in Cuthill Park which themselves draw 1500 spectators. The journey of 25 year old Bonnie Prince Charlie is depicted in the Tapestry on 104 x 1 metre panels building to his Victory at Prestonpans – each embroidered by volunteers along the route and from across the world. It affirms the community's determination to honour and recount this most significant moment in Scottish history. Plans are made for the Tapestry to continue touring in the years ahead.

Above: *The Prince embarks at St Nazaire aboard du Teillay, Jenny Unwin.*



November

The Battle Trust presents its Prospectus to The Nation – inviting the national government and its heritage and tourism agencies to include the Trust's Dream of a Living History Centre in Prestonpans in the nation's future capital project plans. The Trust asserts that, on the basis of its economic evaluations, such a Living History Centre will become a self-sustaining national asset for present and future generations. Prestongrange Heritage Museum has been identified as an excellent site for the Centre, which would link the Battle interpretation to the wider industrial history of the town. The Museum's former Bath House would become the venue for an exciting heritage experience that would allow visitors to relive the campaign and the Victory on September 21st 1745.

Understanding the Battle – Research and Challenges

The Trust has been instrumental in expanding our knowledge of the Battle in 1745. This has included publishing short histories of the battle by scholars Dr Christopher Duffy and Stuart McHardy, and appointing Martin Margulies, author of *Battle of Prestonpans 1745*, as the Trust’s official historian. Glasgow University’s Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, with Dr Tony Pollard as Chief Archaeologist, was commissioned by the Trust to investigate the site – establishing the exact site of the battle in anticipation of the creation of the National Inventory by the Scottish Government. A draft entry for inclusion in the Inventory has also been prepared. As well as such scholarly activities, the Trust is particularly keen to educate and inspire people of all ages to learn more through a range of activities – from battlegaming to storytelling. To assist in achieving this objective, Fiona Campbell has developed online resources for groups visiting the Prestonpans Tapestry.

2007

2008



The Trust appoints Martin Margulies as its official historian. An American human rights lawyer, Margulies authored *The Battle of Prestonpans 1745*, the first and only scholarly work dedicated specifically to the battle.



September

Gordon Veitch gives the public their first chance to play the Battlegame he has developed for the Trust. The Game allows adults and young people to learn more about the history of the battle and is played on 10' x 8' board that incorporates local topography and scale models of buildings.

There has never been a detailed archaeological survey of the battlefield area, the western part of which is covered by a small housing development.

The lottery grant would help fund detailed research into exactly where each element of the conflict took place and then involve the community in a metal detecting survey. This would include the gardens of the housing estate and it is hoped that people living there will take part in the survey.

The results of this work, which would be led by Dr Tony Pollard and a team from the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at Glasgow University, will increase knowledge of the battle itself.

East Lothian Courier, September 14 2007

Understanding the Battle – Research and Challenges

A major new archaeological investigation was announced today to give historians a better understanding of what happened at the battle of Prestonpans.

The £60,000 Heritage Lottery Fund boost will also be used to train guides, create markers and pay for a major new conference and arts festival.

Edinburgh Evening News, April 3 2008

2010

January

The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust has been concerned for some time that the teaching of Scottish history has become less of a priority in schools. With lottery funding of nearly £10,000 from Awards for All, the Trust makes visits to some 32 schools in the area, free of charge. The Trust intends that the pilot programme will continue into the future and expand beyond East Lothian.



Each visit has three component parts which together provide an interactive and fun way to learn about the Jacobite rising of 1745, and in particular, the Battle of Prestonpans which saw Bonnie Prince Charlie defeat the government forces in less than 15 minutes. First the Trust’s storyteller sets the scene. Then Adam Watters recounts his experience of the battle, with a hands-on demonstration of the clothes and weapons of the time. Finally the children play Gordon Veitch’s battle game on a scale model of the actual battle area.

Archaeologists believe Victorian builders “robbed” the ruins of a house at the centre of the Jacobite cause for its stone.

A dig has uncovered buried remains of the mansion at Prestonpans in East Lothian. Evidence of stone being taken was found at what would have been its east wing. Dr Tony Pollard, of the University of Glasgow, led the excavation by local volunteers under the auspices of Prestonpans Battlefield Trust. Dr Pollard, of the university’s Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, said a number of interesting finds were made during the dig.

He said: “Excavation trenches revealed evidence for a wall of the east wing of the house, which had been robbed out during the Victorian period, leaving only a deep trench behind.

The stones were removed to be used in the new walls and buildings around the site.”

BBC News Channel, June 15 2009

Dr Tony Pollard and the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at Glasgow University present their findings following the completion of a major community archaeology programme. As well as involving the local community in fieldwork, an excavation open day was convened in June 2009 and highly popular artefact workshops were held at local schools. The report reveals that the famous 1745 Battle of Prestonpans actually began 500 metres further east than previously thought.



The project saw a team from Glasgow University’s Centre for Battlefield Archaeology (GUARD) working in the area for 18 months. They believe that the main area of attack happened not on land south of Cockenzie Power Station as many previously thought, but further east towards Seton, on fields owned by farmer Alistair Robertson.

Dr Tony Pollard said: ‘The project’s findings are very exciting indeed and really challenge our assumptions of where the battle took place. The amount of musket balls, grape shot and pistol balls found in the fields of Seton East Farm show, beyond reasonable doubt, that the maps we have relied on in the past were wrong.’

Preserving and Interpreting the Battlefield – a National Exemplar

The Trust’s vision is based around a sincere belief in the local, national and international importance of Scotland’s battlefield sites. These sites deserve to be preserved and protected from insensitive development. As archaeological sites they offer us a wealth of knowledge, but their importance as sites of memory is even greater. As such the Trust fervently believes that battlefields should be interpreted and communicated with a many-tiered approach – through literature, symposia, cairns and battlemarkers, and a world-class living history centre. It is hoped that Prestonpans will provide a pioneer example for community driven battle sites across the country.

2007



June

The Battle of Prestonpans Visitor Centre opens at Meadowmill in Prestonpans. The centre is a temporary structure that remains on site over the summer months. It was made possible through a donation from Malcolm Scott, one of the Trustees. The centre is open at weekends and entirely staffed by volunteers and supporters of the battle campaign. The visitor centre plays a key role in the celebrations taking place around the anniversary of the battle. It provides information on the battle and the Jacobite cause, as well as details of the work and aims of the Battle Trust.

At the side of the B1361 road, opposite the battle site, stands a 10-foot tall stone memorial cairn, which was erected in 1932 by the Society for the Preservation of Rural Scotland.

A casket is built into the cairn containing documents relating to the battle, a piece of the famous thorn tree which stood on the battlefield, photographs of the original tree and a set of new coins...

The battle visitor centre at Meadowmill car park, close to the memorial bing has proved a great success with visitors. It opened at the end of June and is due to close for the winter at the end of this month. Funded with a donation by Battle Heritage Trustee Malcolm Scott, the centre contains leaflets and souvenirs and a small exhibition telling the history of the battle and giving details of the Battle Trusts plans for the area. Open every weekend between 11am and 3pm, the centre is entirely staffed by volunteers, and the Trust has been overwhelmed by their dedication.

East Lothian Courier, September 14 2007

2008



June

In 2008 Historic Scotland sought the nation’s views through a Consultation Document that outlined what they felt should be done to protect Scotland’s Battlefields. The Trust considered the document at an Open Consultation in Prestonpans to which they invited leaders from East Lothian Antiquarian Society, Dunbar and Prestonpans Community Councils, Prestonpans Historical Society, Old Musselburgh Club’s Pinkie Group and the general public.

The overwhelming opinion was that the document came nowhere near to meeting the requirements of the challenges or the opportunities. In essence the Trust argued that battlefields have a vital educational message to share and they are an integral element in the personality and self esteem of the community where the battle took place. These conclusions were submitted to Historic Scotland, First Minister and the Minister of Culture.

Preserving and Interpreting the Battlefield – a National Exemplar

Action to improve the site of the Battle of Prestonpans has been demanded by campaigners. The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust and Prestonpans Community Council have lodged a petition with East Lothian Council, asking it to formally acknowledge support for the trust’s visitor centre plans.
Edinburgh Evening News, January 12 2010

2008



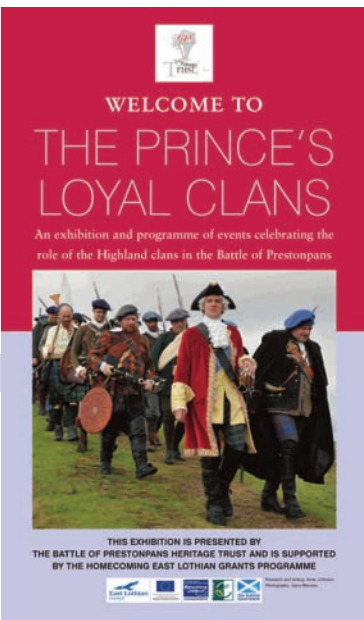
September

The 1st Scottish Biennial Battlefield Conference & Symposium convened over two days, bringing the local community together with archaeologists, historians, heritage officers and storytellers. The Symposium took place on the 18th, with a lecture programme and discussion devoted to the history of the battle and its significance for the regeneration of the local community. The Arts Festival was held the next day, with arts and education workshops attracting 200 school children and a performance of *The Battle of Pots ‘n’ Pans*.

2009

July

The Prince’s Loyal Clans Exhibition – part of The Homecoming – takes place between 18 and 31 July. Most events are at the Gothenburg on the High Street in Prestonpans, but there are storytelling walks of the battle site and re-enactments at Tranent Churchyard for visiting Camerons from New Zealand. The free exhibition is open throughout the two week programme, where visitors can learn what part the individual clans played before, during and after the famous 1745 battle. Also on display is a specially commissioned 10ft scale model of the battlefield, with each of the two armies represented in detail.



2010

January

The Trust and Prestonpans Community Council lodge a petition with East Lothian Council exhorting action to improve the battle site. The two bodies are asking East Lothian Council to follow the lead of the Scottish



Government’s successive Ministers of Culture and members of the Holyrood Parliament who have all pledged to ‘support’ as best they can the work of the Battle Trust and its plans to create a living history centre. The Petition includes specific requests to the Council’s Petitions Committee that meets on 21 January. Most importantly, the Council is asked to formally acknowledge its support for the Battle Trust’s plans for a living history centre. The Petitions Committee supports the Trust’s goals and agrees to explore how Blindwells ecotown can preserve and interpret the Riggonhead Defile, which passes through the proposed development.

Preserving and Interpreting the Battlefield – a National Exemplar

The Vision for the Future

2010



June

The 2nd Biennial Scottish Battlefields Conference & Symposium attracts some 200 participants and takes place over three days. It includes the unveiling of the Trust's own portrait of The Prince by Kate Hunter, serious presentations and debate in the Town Hall, and a Clan Exhibition at the Museum Power House. The event concludes with an historical encampment by the Alan Brecks and Glenbuckets with an associated funday at the Museum site for young people.

July

Valour Does Not Wait, a detailed study of Charles Edward Stuart by Arran Johnston, is published. This follows Johnston's 2008 anthology of literature on the battle, *Rebellious Scots to Crush*. Robert Cadell's 1898 work, *Sir John Cope and the Rebellion of 1745*, was republished in the same year.

The battle also continues to be a rich resource for works of fiction. 2008 saw the publication of the first two novels under the Cuthill Press fiction imprint, *A Backward Glance* by Sharon Dabell and *The White Rose and the Thorn Tree* by Roy Pugh. In 2009 a third followed from Gordon Prestoungrange, *A Baron's Tale*.



September

The Trust continues its ongoing work developing onsite interpretation. Three new interpretive panels at the key entry points to the battle area orientate visitors, introduce the Trust and provide historical background. Battlefield Markers on the site of the battle itself are designed to be visible from the Bing and Waggonway and to illustrate the key areas of battle movement, engagement and aftermath.

Conservation and Interpretation of the significant Riggonhead Defile is included in the Council's Master Plan for the development of its new eco-community at Blindwells following lobbying by the Trust which pledges to advise and support the future developers.



2006

September

The Trust's campaign was launched with the publication of the *Dream of the People of Prestonpans*. This vision was based on extensive consultation since 2003 and a Royal Society of Arts 'Coffee House Challenge'.



Once realised the Prestonpans Battle Dream will:

- Provide a permanent and accessible resource centre for the interpretation of the Battle of Prestonpans
- Honour those who fought and died on both sides in the battle
- Safeguard the battle site by ensuring it is protected from encroaching development, delineating the lines of battle, and facilitating proper archaeological exploration and preservation
- Create an environmentally sound space by re-planting original species of trees and restoring the pattern of agriculture
- Interpret significant aspects of the area before and since the battle
- Become a self financing tourist destination that will greatly benefit the local and national economy
- Generate local employment, both directly and through ancillary local facilities
- Use the arts, which are flourishing in Prestonpans, to underpin and strengthen the project.

2007



Regenerating a community through arts and heritage: the Prestonpans Battle Dream

Wednesday 24 January at the National Trust for Scotland, Wemyss House, 28 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh

January

The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufacturers and Commerce selects the Trust's Battle Dream as the focus for their Meeting in Edinburgh.

The Vision for the Future

“Set up in 2006 to campaign for the protection and suitable interpretation of the battle site, the community-based Trust is currently lobbying and fundraising. Eventually it will raise £7 million to create a permanent visitor centre and mark out the field of battle. A significant step forward came in August when authoritative research commissioned by the Trust confirmed that such a visitor centre could attract at least 70,000 visitors a year, be self-financing and make a considerable contribution to the local economy...

It seems that pretty much everyone agrees that the Battle of Prestonpans is an event in history worthy of marking and that it has every chance of contributing to the economy of the local area and Scotland as a whole.

East Lothian Courier, September 14 2007

”

2007



March

Patricia Ferguson MSP, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, visits Prestonpans and is impressed by Trust’s local campaign to build a living history centre and preserve the battle site.

She commented afterwards: ‘The Battle of Prestonpans was a very significant event in Scotland’s history and one which every schoolchild learns about. I fully support moves to preserve the site for future generations and to develop it in a way that will create employment and training opportunities and attract additional tourism to the area. I’m especially impressed with the level of community support for this proposal and the local commitment to be worthy custodians of this part of the nation’s heritage.’



July

Management and hospitality consultants RGA release their report on the financial viability of the Trust’s proposed Living History Battle Centre. RGA is convinced that a well-constructed visitor experience at Meadowmill in Prestonpans could attract over 70,000 people and be economically self-sufficient. In recent years RGA accurately predicted visitor numbers at both the Falkirk Wheel and Scottish Parliament.

Local MSP John Home-Robertson welcomes the research, especially because of the economic benefits of increased tourism to this part of East Lothian. ‘Tourism is very important to East Lothian and it makes absolute sense to develop the fantastic legacy that the Battle of Prestonpans represents. This project has the potential to create employment in Prestonpans and also to attract more visitors to the area as a whole.’

The Vision for the Future

2008

September

To begin to imagine and envision how the Battle Centre could deliver its experience, the Trustees commission the internationally acclaimed interior design team at Haley Sharpe Design to work during the summer of 2008. They present their own emergent ideas to MSPs at Holyrood Parliament. Iain Gray, newly elected East Lothian MSP and Scotland’s Labour Leader, voices his unreserved support at this event.



2009



April

Minister of Culture Michael Russell MSP visits the Trustees and formally agrees at their meeting to ‘assist the Trust in the next stage of its campaign to create a national living history centre focused on the battle in 1745’. The ‘next steps’ documentation is tabled with the Minister’s representatives from Historic Scotland on June 22nd.

The Vision for the Future

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Prestongrange Mining Museum has become a front-runner in the hunt for a suitable location for the proposed battle of Prestonpans Visitor Centre, which could attract thousands of new tourists to the county.

Dr Gordon Prestoungrange headed a delegation from the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust as the group presented a petition to East Lothian Council last Thursday, calling for better conservation, interpretation and presentation of the Battle of Prestonpans site.

East Lothian Courier, January 29 2010

The Trust has been campaigning for several years for better conservation and interpretation of the Battle of Prestonpans site. It had previously hoped to build the centre close to the battlefield, on a dilapidated coal bing near Meadowmill Sports Centre. But it has now suggested the Prestongrange Mining Museum, as it would reduce costs and make visitor access easier. It estimates more than 150,000 visitors would visit this site each year, more than double the number at the alternative site.

Edinburgh Evening News, January 2010

2010

January

The Trust begins to explore alternative locations for the Living History Centre. The bing at Meadowmill remains the ideal site for such a centre, giving as it does a unique vantage point on the battlefield. However, building on the side and top of the bing is clearly a significant and not inexpensive engineering challenge.

The Trust's alternative plan still very much insists the battlefield must be properly conserved and interpreted, but that the Living History Centre itself might be located at Prestongrange Heritage Museum, approximately two miles west of the battle.

Such an alternative plan involves first and foremost the proper conservation and interpretation of the Riggonhead Defile approach at Blindwells; of the battlefield itself between Seton Farm East and 'Preston House'; and developing the bing as both a fine viewpoint and a dramatic iconic focus for travellers passing along the A1 and the parallel national rail network.

A Living History Centre located at the Heritage Museum close by Morrison's Haven is certainly less well situated for the battle site but such an alternative venue provides the opportunity for all the other significant parts of Prestonpans heritage to be told as well. Visitor numbers and repeat visitors under this alternative plan could be expected to reach towards 150,000 each year.



June

East Lothian Council agrees to explore with the Battle Trust the comprehensive development of Prestongrange Heritage Museum with the Living History Centre as 'anchor attraction' – the whole to include the 'permanent' home for the 104 metre Prestonpans Tapestry.

Above: Prince awaits responses to his letters, Ann Fraser.

Beyond 2010 – Implementing Our Prospectus to The Nation

21

As already indicated, this is Our Prospectus to The Nation – seeking the nation's support for the creation of a Living History Centre in The Pans. As that ambition progresses, the Trustees are of course committed to continue as they are best able. They will pursue several strategic directions to achieve both short-and long-term goals. In particular they shall continue the ongoing celebrations of the battle, and the engagement of communities locally, nationally and worldwide. The Trust has a proposed combined budget of £7 million to implement the proposals for Seton Farm East, the Meadowmill Bing, the Heritage Museum and the Tapestry Pavilion.

The following are the priority action lines for the Trust:

- **Touring of the Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry:** This will be a major touring exhibition to reach as many communities across the nation as possible, continuing what has already begun in summer 2010. The Trust is already developing educational outreach services that build on the tapestry's visual excitement.
- **Seton Farm East:** Working with the owners of the farm and farm shop to develop a satellite interpretation centre at this location, which has been proven by Glasgow University's research to be the main initial area of action during the battle.
- **Prestongrange Heritage Museum:** Exploration of the potential partnership with East Lothian Council to develop the site's total comprehensive offer, incorporating living history and the local area's battle heritage on the site in a way that assists in the overall revival of the fortunes of this important industrial heritage site – interpreting the iconic Beam Engine, Pottery Kilns, Glassworks and much more. At the heart of Prestongrange stands its largest structure – the 1950s brick mine office and bath house complex. At present the Bath House is used for storage of the Museum's extensive railway collection but it is not well suited to its current role. It is this building that the Trust is now seeking to develop as a centre for the interpretation of the Battle. The Bath House can be developed to house the facilities at the heart of the Trust's ambitions. These would include interpretation of the battle, library and study facilities, related small-scale theatre and arts spaces, and improved visitor facilities. All of these uses can be incorporated within the existing structure, while sections of the baths and stores can also be restored to enhance the existing interpretation of the mining industry. The water tower can be refurbished in order to recreate its glass façade and introduce further facilities, including a rooftop café.
- **Pans 'Home' for the Tapestry:** The Trust is searching for funds specifically to create a bespoke circular pavilion to house and display the Tapestry, to serve as its permanent home in Prestonpans and act as a major attraction.
- **Continuing Animation and Interpretation of the Battle:** This will be achieved through the continued arts and re-enactment programme, living history days with the Alan Breck Regiment and extensive use of the BattleBus. The Trust will also seek to conserve and present the ancient coal wagon way across which the battle raged and which has its own significant heritage.
- **Schools Learning:** Our schools learning programme will continue in local and national schools, alongside storytelling and Battle gaming activities including an annual inter-schools competition. This will build on the exceptional programme already in action which reaches over thirty local school groups.
- **The Riggonhead Defile:** The Trust will continue to contribute to the creation of a 'sense of place' for the future residents of the new eco-community at Blindwells. This will be achieved through annual re-enactments of the 4am Defile Walk and extensive interpretation through sculpture, library/exhibition facilities and street names in partnership with the developers.
- **ELC Petitions Committee Working Group Follow-up:** The Trustees will continue to pursue the issues tabled at and agreed with the Petitions Committee of East Lothian Council e.g. presentation of monuments, maintenance of the bing as a vantage viewpoint and effective signposting for visitors locally and on the A1.
- **Bankton House Doocot:** The Trust will seek to ensure the artefacts from the Bankton House Doocot are appropriately displayed, along with the Trust's own accumulating library, murals, new literary works, the fragment of Gardiner's thorn tree, new portraiture and 19th century etchings.

Tony Pollard
Centre for Battlefield Archaeology
University of Glasgow

Introduction

This statement has been prepared at the request of the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Trust, which via the Heritage Lottery Fund sponsored an archaeological assessment of the battlefield. This project was undertaken by the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology at Glasgow University and was directed by Dr Tony Pollard with the assistance of Natasha Ferguson. This statement is not intended to replace the Inventory entry for the battlefield prepared by the author for Historic Scotland in 2008 but may be used to further inform some of the information contained within that document (which was prepared in advance of the fieldwork which forms the basis of this statement). The project, which included documentary research, metal detector surveys, geophysical surveys and limited excavation, was run as a community initiative through the Trust, with local people participating as volunteers on the project and local metal detector

clubs providing teams for the metal detector surveys. The recommendations made in this statement are based on the results of the survey and should be read in conjunction with the full report provided on the work in late 2009 (Pollard and Ferguson 2009). In summary, the project succeeded in locating the position of the initial encounter between the government and Jacobite armies, in fields around Seton West Mains, and several hundred metres further to the east than it was originally assumed to be located. Further survey work is recommended in this area to further define the location and movements of the two armies, as revealed by artefact scatters, but there can be little doubt, on the basis of the material already recovered and plotted, that this area represents the core of the battlefield (i.e. the location at which the two armies formed up, the ground over which the Jacobite charge occurred

and the main fighting took place – the rout of the government troops took in a greater area, extending as far west as Preston House).



Archaeological survey

The Archaeological Assessment

Prestonpans was a mobile action with the government forces quickly routed to the west by the Jacobite charge. Earlier elements of the survey attempted to recover evidence for this rapid movement. Unfortunately the ground between the site of the initial encounter and the eastern walls of the parks surrounding Preston House, were covered during the interwar years and after by housing schemes and the power station. Although this has clearly had an impact on the battle terrain, the discovery by residents of musket balls in their own gardens suggested that artefacts do survive in-situ. Accordingly part of the project was given over to a metal detector survey of resident's gardens, in several locations across the housing schemes. While these proved very successful as far as the outreach objectives of the project were concerned little material relating to the battle was recovered during this exercise.

Further areas were also subject to metal

detector survey and these included: the open fields between the eastern walls of the parks associated with Bankton House; fields immediately to the north of Tranent churchyard – the vicinity of the Dovecote; the open area in the vicinity of Thorntree Mains; an area adjacent to the eastern side of the Preston House park walls and on either side of the route of the 18th century wagon way which has traditionally been associated with the battle.

Only the latter of these areas produced finds which can unequivocally be associated with the battle. Several lead carbine balls were recovered from these two fields, both of which are partially covered by a Scheduled area. The Scheduled Ancient Monument is not related to the battle but a crop mark site thought to perhaps be associated with Iron Age activity (the site has never been tested through excavation). Given that most history books show

the Jacobites charging across the wagon way, from the east, toward the government line positioned to the west of this linear feature, it was initially thought that these fields may have contained dense concentrations of material denoting the location of the initial encounter.

However, the recovery of only a very few carbine balls, probably fired by government dragoons, was not in keeping with expected quantity of finds resulting from the main encounter between the two armies. It was then that interest moved to the fields around Seton West Mains, further to the east. Metal detecting in this area resulted in the recovery of a larger assemblage of finds and there can be little doubt that this is associated with the battle. These included Jacobite and government musket balls (the former being slightly smaller than the latter), cannon shot and pieces of broken weaponry (see Pollard and Ferguson 2010).

It is clear that the core of the battlefield is located to the east of the wagon way, and that rather than being crossed only by the Jacobites, as they charged, it was crossed by both armies as the fleeing government troops were pursued to the west by the victorious Jacobites. The extent of the artefact scatter suggests that the battlefield area extends some considerable distance to the east, beyond the farm of Seton West Mains. This area was included within the Historic Scotland Battlefield Inventory but the results do suggest that the battlefield is better preserved than was first assumed. On the basis of these findings the area of the battlefield as shown on the Historic Scotland Inventory map should perhaps be extended slightly further to the east (though this could be verified by further metal detector survey) but also importantly take in the area of Seton village as it existed at the time of the battle.

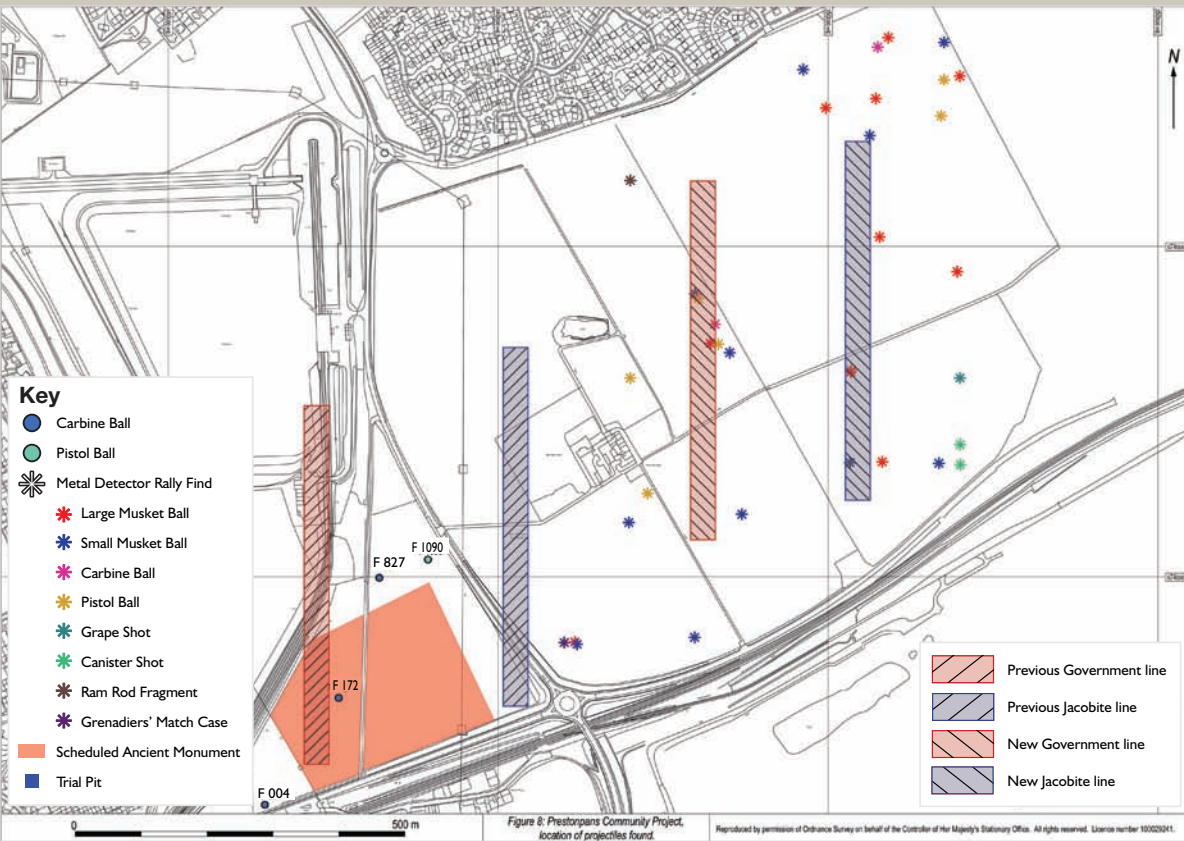
The Archaeological Assessment (continued)

The Jacobite force entered onto the battlefield after passing through a marsh via the Riggon-Head defile immediately to the east of the former village. The site of the village, which existed between Seton Farm to the west and Seton House to the east is currently undeveloped and so the potential for well preserved archaeological remains relating to the village are very high. It is very rare to find a historic battlefield with an associated settlement which now exists as buried remains and therefore as an archaeological site (though there has as yet been no attempt to assess this condition through archaeological evaluation).

The only formerly upstanding remains to be examined through excavation were those relating to the former site of Preston House, which today corresponds to an area immediately to the south of the community centre. The small scale excavation, which attracted a large number of visitors

during an open day, revealed that the foundations of the house had been removed, leaving only ‘robber trenches’. Despite the absence of substantial archaeological deposits it is recommended that on-site signage provide information on the house and its history.

Right: Prestonpans Community Project, location of projectiles found



Recommendations

The area to be considered within any management plan should take into account the various elements of the battlefield. **These include:**

- The vantage point at Birslic Brae from which the Hanoverian army was initially viewed below.
- Tranent churchyard and The Manse where Colonel Gardiner died.
- The Riggonhead Defile passing from east of Tranent and emerging just west of Seton village.
- The fields at Seton West Mains where the initial engagement took place. This should include the area already included on the Historic Scotland Battlefield Inventory map and also take in the site of Seton village as it existed in 1756 (see above).
- All the area between Seton West Mains and Jacobite Way, Prestonpans, including the Wagon way – being the land across which pursuit took place after the initial engagement.
- The Memorial cairn erected in 1933.
- Bankton House and the Gardiner obelisk to the north of the house.
- Johnnie Cope Road/Way being the line of escape by Cope's dragoons after defeat (there are local accounts of musket balls being recovered to the west of Bankton House but this area has not been subject to survey).
- Cockenzie House.



Archaeological survey

For the area immediately to the south of Cockenzie Power Station, across which the pursuit of the fleeing redcoats occurred, the Trust in the first instance seeks an archaeological survey of this area which may lead to the restitution of the field once there is no longer any need for coal trains to pass through the cutting.

The issue of overhead cables is one that has been raised by the Trust but their removal underground will have an archaeological implication which should be considered prior to any such decision.

For the Wagon way across which both sides passed from Seton West Mains to the walls of Preston House, it is recommended that: [a] conservation and interpretation of the Wagon way is undertaken as this is a significant industrial heritage artefact; [b] demolition of the Coal Store which straddles the old route of the Wagon Way to Cockenzie Harbour and

restitution so far as is reasonably possible of the Wagon Way with northerly connection to the John Muir Way.

The site of the Coal Store should be wholly discontinued as ‘industrial land’ once no longer required and any development there should be wholly compatible with the proper interpretation of the Wagon Way as an 18th century industrial heritage artefact associated with the battle.

Local landowners should be encouraged to deny permission for metal detecting on their properties unless this is as part of an archaeological survey. It is clear from the results of the metal detecting at Seton West Mains that had this been a more informal event, without the GPS recording of finds, then an incredibly important body of evidence would have been lost.

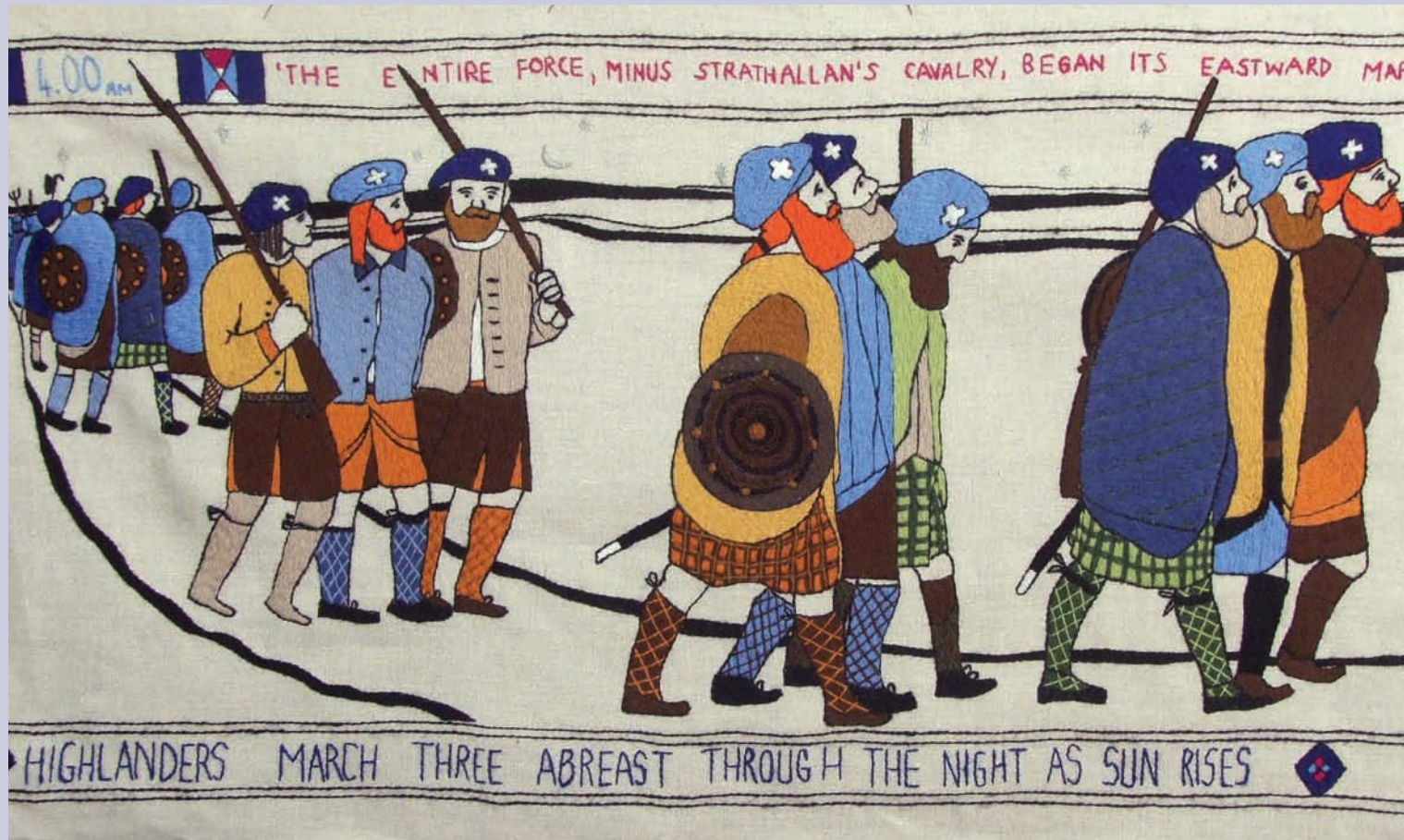
The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry

26

Hailed as the longest in the world, the Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry is an amazing tribute to the Jacobite rising of 1745 and to the commitment of the 200 volunteers who created it. It is the product of over 25,000 hours of work and research and contains over 10 million stitches. Each of its 104 panels depicts a scene from the early campaign of Bonnie Prince Charlie – from his landing on Eriskay to his resounding victory at the Battle of Prestonpans.

The tapestry is the latest initiative of the Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust. Set up in 2006 to campaign for the proper recognition of this defining period of Scotland's history, the Battle Trust has worked tirelessly to secure its place in the nation's consciousness.

Inspiration for the Prestonpans Tapestry came from the Trust's founding chairman, Dr Gordon Prestoungrange, who visited the Bayeux tapestry. He thought something similar could be created in Prestonpans and so began this remarkable community art project. Initially meant to be just 70 metres long, the project took on momentum of its own as stitchers from all over Scotland volunteered to take part. Artist Andrew Crummy designed a further 25 panels to accommodate them and their ideas for additional scenes for the story. When it was completed in the summer of 2010, it embarked on a tour of the Highlands and East Coast, in the footsteps of the Prince himself, to the communities of the many volunteers.



The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry

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Every audience has been amazed at the detail contained in each panel – both in its stitching and in historical content. It is one of the most compelling and comprehensive records in existence of this optimistic and victorious part of the Jacobite campaign.

On Eriskay, the Tapestry was greeted with dancing and storytelling, specially choreographed by local children for the event. Even in the first few venues the number of visitors began to hint towards the Tapestry's widespread appeal. At the first exhibition on the mainland, the Astley Hall in Arisaig, 369 people attended in two days. That figured was doubled at Fort William, and towards the end of the tour the Tapestry was showing itself able to bring in over 700 a day. By the tour's conclusion, its climactic homecoming to Prestonpans, the total was over 10,000 people.

At Prestonpans, the Tapestry arrived in time for the celebrations of the battle's anniversary, climaxing in spectacular battle re-enactments which

drew over 100 participants from all over the UK and beyond, as well as over 1,500 spectators. More than

2,000 people visited the Tapestry in that weekend alone.

*Opposite: Highlanders march three abreast along the Riggonhead Defile, Elaine MacMorrine.
Below: The Bonnie Prince arrives at Eriskay, Sue MacDonald, Neilina MacInnes and friends.*



The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry

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Creating a new home for the Tapestry

Having created such a wonderful resource, the Battle Trust is now asking the nation to help build a suitable home for it – where it can be kept safe and enjoyed by audiences for many decades to come. The Battle Trust has always planned to create a living history centre close to the site – where the battle story can be told and explored. It is already in partnership with East Lothian Council to explore the development of the Prestongrange Industrial Heritage Museum to include a Battle Centre.

With the arrival of the tapestry, these plans have evolved to include a purpose-built 'Prestonpans Tapestry Pavilion'. Here the 104-metre artwork can be displayed in one continuous round, with the correct light and temperature conditions to keep it safe and ready to be enjoyed to the full.

Colonel Gardiner falls beneath a thorn tree, Carmel Daly.



The Battle of Prestonpans Tapestry

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What people said

“This Tapestry is a seminal moment in community art – and we’ll be celebrating it centuries from now.”

“A truly stunning work of art, heritage and personality. The finest.”

“A triumph of art, research and perseverance.”

“Hugely ambitious and successful. Great concept. Brilliantly executed.”

“A ‘new’ Scottish treasure to be enjoyed in perpetuity.”

“A truly significant artwork for the Scottish nation and a wonderful example of the embroiderers skill.”



Andrew Crummy, Dorie Wilkie and Gillian Hart, - who led the project.

The Prestonpans Tapestry, the football pitch length depiction of the battle unveiled in July after 25,000 hours of work, is also making a triumphant return to its home town for the celebrations following a tour around the country. [...] This will be the first time the massive 104-metre tapestry has been on public display in its home town.

Edinburgh Evening News, September 21st 2010

Arran Johnston quoted in the same article of the Tapestry's homecoming:

“Not only have we had astonishing numbers attending, even in the smallest communities and venues, but everyone has been really impressed by the quality of the work.”

“This tapestry exceeds the length of the Bayeux Tapestry, from which inspiration for the Prestonpans Tapestry came, by some 30 metres. Some 200 volunteer needleworkers from all over Scotland [...] worked together to complete this amazing piece of artwork designed by artist Andrew Crummy.”

Locations on the 2010 Tour

Eriskay Community Hall
Arisaig Astley Hall
Invergordon Naval Heritage Museum
Fort William Nevis Centre
Glenug Hall
Stirling Smith Museum
Blair Castle Ballroom
Perth Salutation Inn
Dunblane Cathedral
Gullane Village Hall
Duddingston Kirk Hall
Prestonpans Community Centre
Edinburgh's Dovecot Tapestry Studios

Introduction

One of the key heritage sites in the local area is the Heritage Museum at Prestongrange on the edge of the town of Prestonpans. The site itself has great potential for further development, not least because it embodies the industrial story of the town through its archaeology, key industrial features in pottery, brick making and mining, and its location at Morrison's Haven on the Forth – but also because the buildings on the site are ideal for the future needs of the Trust and the community. Being a partner with East Lothian Council in the development of this site would deliver many benefits, such as the restoration and reuse of the heritage sites, a synergy with the Council's objectives to revive the museum, and the opportunity with the Trust to create an experience that lives and breathes to encourage repeat use. With the display of the Tapestry the site could come alive in a new and vibrant way – with a wide and exciting offer to audiences

of all kinds. The Trust's potential work at the Heritage Museum is an essential component of the renaissance of the site providing a visitor centre for the understanding of the battle, a display of the Tapestry, living history space, catering and a series of events and educational programmes. The theme of this development is "Victory, Hope and Ambition" for the community of Prestonpans – a key development for the future sustainability of the town.

There is clear potential for this attraction that will satisfy the objectives of the Trust for this to be a regeneration project for the town. However, this is dependent upon the full development of the preferred site, Prestongrange Heritage Museum, by East Lothian Council with whom the Trust is working closely to develop appropriate plans.

In the meantime the Trust will maintain the great momentum it has gained over the last decade – and the interpretation

of the Battlefield and a programme of events as set out in the Prospectus will continue to further prove the potential of the destination and delight visitors.

Sketch of the tapestry cloister with the bath house rooftop cafe behind.



Feasibility Study Outcomes

The Trust is developing plans for just such a visitor attraction that offers a permanent and appropriate memorial that will better preserve and interpret the Battle, and tells the story of Prestonpans as context to the Battle itself. As part of that development RGA Consultants have assessed the feasibility of the project to define its potential audience size, mix of facilities and overall operational costs.

Prestonpans is located on the south coast of the Firth of Forth, approximately ten miles east of Edinburgh, near the A1 corridor linking the North East of England with Scotland. It has a population of 7,153. Historically a mining town, there is currently very little industry, resulting in a stagnant economy for the last forty years. As a result of the economic difficulties since the last study, unemployment in the Ward of Prestonpans West has grown from 3.9

to 9.6% and is by far the highest in East Lothian. Opportunities to create jobs and deliver tourism potential are a high priority in the area.

Prestonpans also has a high proportion of vulnerable social groups. This project has the potential to provide a positive social and economic influence on the area. The market area for the project also has a high proportion of affluent individuals who have the ability to make a positive contribution to the sustainability of the project.

Overall, the feasibility study stressed that a new visitor centre in East Lothian is financially viable – assuming that the Trust creates something vibrant and new, and flexible enough to generate income from commercial activities. On that basis, the proposed centre will be designed as a dynamic, flexible, multi-functional facility that will maximise revenue generation. Partnerships, joint marketing and cross ticketing will be

adopted for maximum visitor reach.

Based on the study outcomes the core visitor attraction would provide seventeen jobs and bring over 87,000 visitors a year from outside East Lothian. The Trust believes there is the potential to attract up to 120 – 150,000 users as and when the Heritage Museum site is developed to its fullest potential.



Feasibility Study Outcomes

- The market area for the project also has a high proportion of affluent individuals who have the ability to make a positive contribution to the sustainability of the project;
- The rapid increase in the working age population of East Lothian may not be sustainable in the long term without an increase in jobs in order to curtail the high levels of commuting to Edinburgh for employment, which this project could in part provide;
- Prestonpans is well located near the A1, the corridor linking the North East of England with Scotland and in a good position to capture a significant amount of the population within a 90 minutes drive;
- The tourism industry in the Edinburgh and Lothians region is worth just over £1 billion per year in terms of visitor spend and plays an increasingly important role in the economic life of the region; 9.5% of all employment in the area is within the tourism sector, which is in line with Scottish national average;
- The Scottish Seabird Centre is in the top ten of paid Scottish Visitors Attractions and is situated in East Lothian;
- There is evidence of some tourism development and rejuvenation in the area, such as new museum developments including the building of a new hangar at the Museum of Flight;
 - The project will attract an audience of some 87,000 with potential for a further 60,000 per annum as part of a vibrant development;
 - The opening of three new museums in East Lothian could reduce the visitor numbers to Prestongrange unless it is competitively re-developed.



There is therefore a real momentum behind the proposal to develop the site and create a new vision to breathe life into it. To that end the Trust has invested funds in a Feasibility Study and also in the development of sketch plans by Gareth Bryn-Jones to visualize a bright future for the whole of Prestongrange – which will be the core focus for our work in the short term. Following the outstanding success of the Highlands Tour of the Tapestry in 2010, the Trust is now preparing plans for an international appeal for funds towards the creation of a Tapestry Pavilion at the Heritage Museum.

Recent initiatives for the interpretation of the battles of Pinkie Cleugh [1547] and of Dunbar [1650] offer further opportunities for the development of an East Lothian Battlefield Trail.

*Community archaeology projects
(Images by permission of Chiaroscuro).*



The Bath House

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Developing the Bath House at Prestongrange Heritage Museum

The Bath House was built in 1952-53 and remained in operation, providing mine-workers with basic facilities previously denied to them, until 1963. In the years since its closure the building has suffered from the results of poor maintenance and isolation. Without a dedicated or appropriate purpose it has deteriorated and now appears to be in a sorry state: windows boarded over, surroundings overgrown and, most significantly, its flat roof decaying and providing a fine environment for vegetation to take hold.

In spite of its run down appearance the Bath House is a robust building, designed and built to give many years of use beyond the actual life of the colliery it served. Initial architectural and structural appraisal of the fabric reveals that it remains fundamentally sound. The concrete frame is robust, the brick in-fill in remarkably good condition with little evidence of significant structural problems. The roof however

has suffered badly from many years of neglect and the mastic asphalt covering is now in very poor condition. This has led to localised decay in the concrete deck but not to major structural failure. The robust, over-designed, concrete structure remains largely intact.

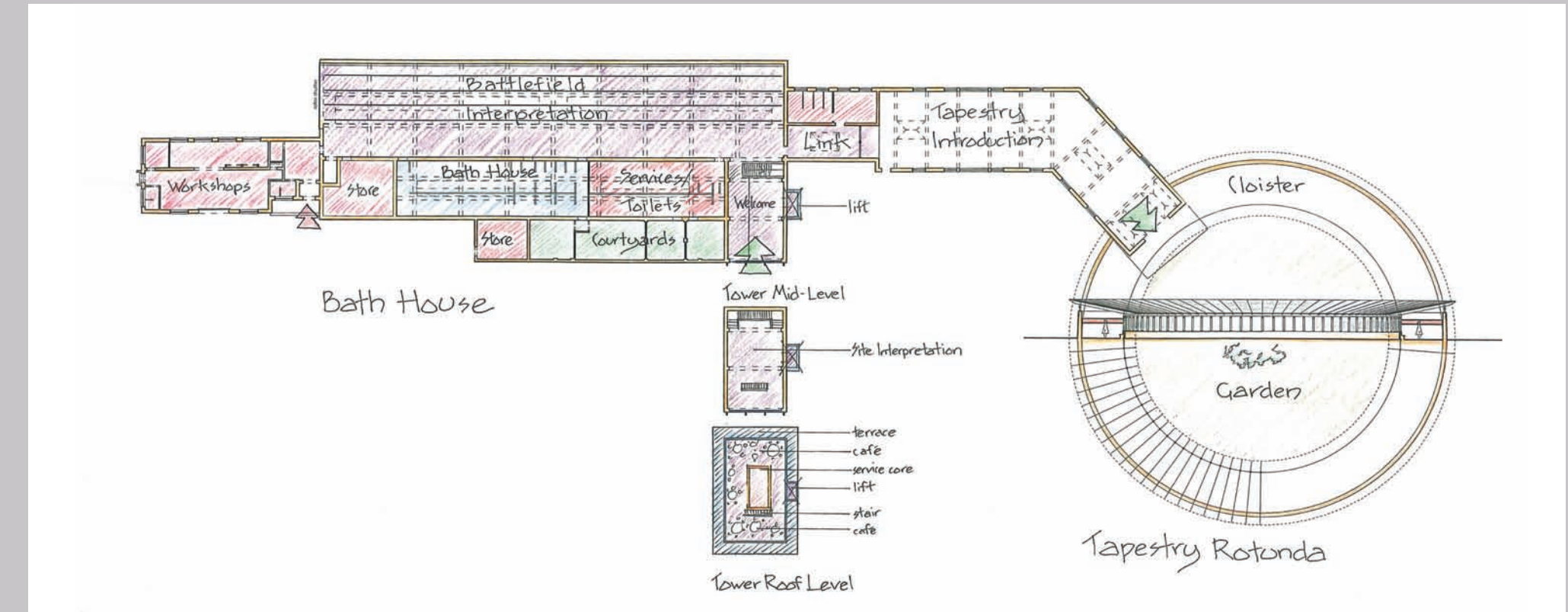
The Bath House is a viable building, with a strong architectural presence and an important role in the story of local industrial heritage. Replacement of the roof, perhaps using a lightweight insulated structure over the existing concrete frame, would solve most of the building's problems. The interior could then be improved, where necessary, by the installation of a simple internal frame, concealing new services and insulation. The character of the Bath House would remain and there would be an opportunity to restore or interpret sections, including the bath and shower blocks.



The Bath House.

The Bath House

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Concept sketch plan showing Bath House and Tapestry Rotunda.

The original tower entrance, beneath a high glazed screen, could be reinstated, allowing visitors entry to a core housing reception facilities, including ticket sales, a shop and direct access to an upper level museum space and a new café. The café could be constructed above the existing tower, using structural steel and glazing to create an attractive destination in itself, with views out over the site and, to the north, over the forth to Fife, Edinburgh and beyond. A new external lift could be built to the full height of the tower east face.

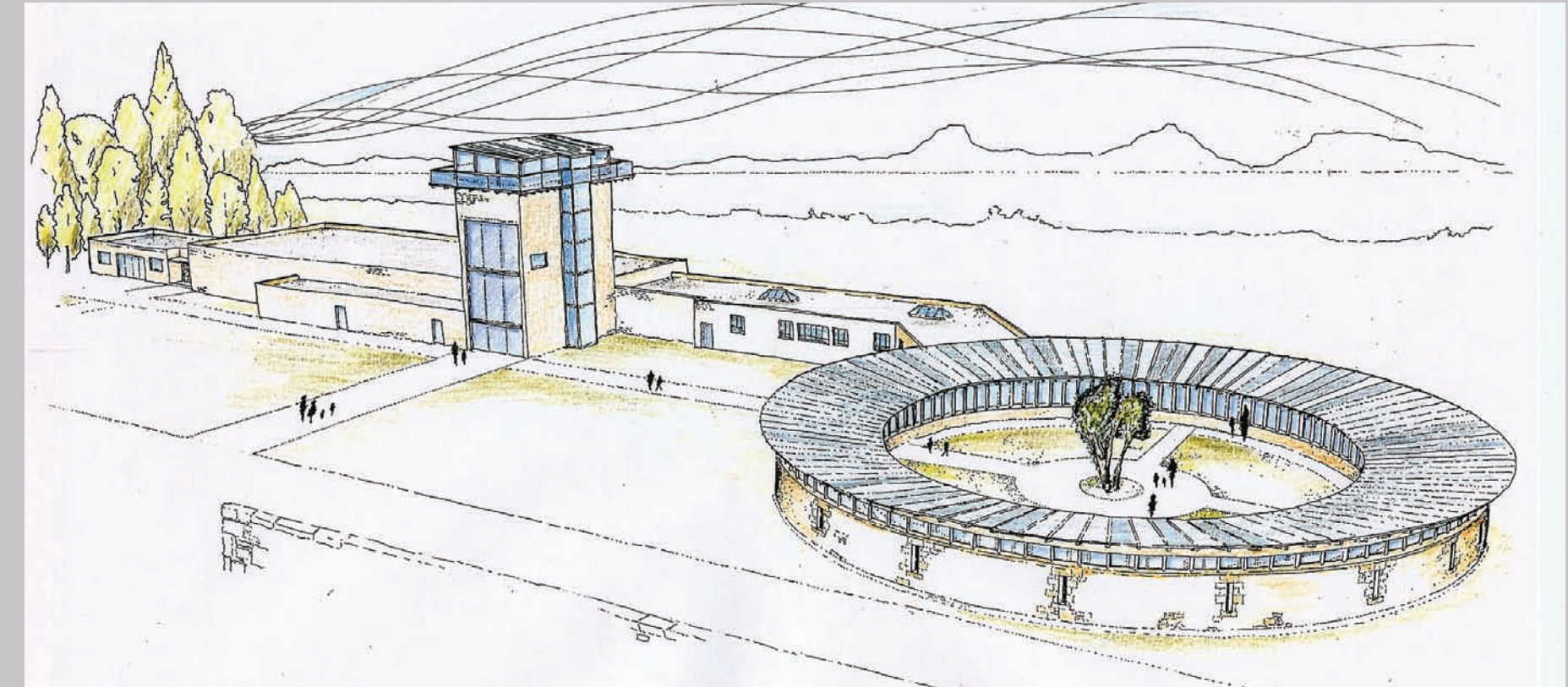
From the entrance tower visitors could visit further museum and interpretation facilities, perhaps housed within the impressive principal hall. This single open space could be adapted in part or whole, depending on the scale of facilities required. It may even be converted in stages, as funding allows. The western section of the Bath House was formerly an office wing and may either be sub-divided from the Battle Centre itself or adapted to provide library and education spaces. If the area is not required as part of the developed

Battle centre then it may provide site administration facilities or, perhaps, workshop space for artisan industry. To the east of the main entrance is a long, narrow, low wing reaching out to the side of the tower like an arm. This wing, currently used for storage, could easily be adapted to tell the story of the arts in relation to the Jacobite rebellions and the more recent but no less remarkable story of the Tapestry. The space is flexible and, like the other sections of the building, well lit by roof lanterns and windows. It would however provide an ideal approach to a new structure, built at its south-eastern end and housing the Prestonpans Tapestry. The Tapestry is a remarkable artwork and deserves to be housed in a fitting environment, allowing for its protection and display. The scale of the tapestry is such that it requires a substantial area of wall, ideally free from obstacles or structure, and if possible sufficient space for the scale of the whole work to be appreciated. The Trust is therefore seeking to develop a purpose-built home for the Tapestry on ground adjacent to

the former Bath House at Prestongrange. The proposed structure takes the form of a rotunda or, more specifically, a torus ring with a robust outer wall with few small openings and a partly glazed inner screen forming a cloister around a central memorial garden. The new building would allow the tapestry to be hung, with appropriate interpretation, on the outer wall. Large sections of the tapestry could then be viewed directly, while the whole tapestry should be visible through the glazed cloister and over the garden. Simple natural ventilation at high level, solid floors and walls, a heavily insulated roof and screening of the glazing should provide a stable and safe environment. Constructing a circular cloister should also prove to be an economic way of providing a substantial wall surface without creating an excessively large building. This should reduce construction costs, which could be further reduced through the use of simple repeating elements, with each bay of the structure being the same. Timber posts, beams and rafters should

require little reinforcement or complex detailing. Servicing could be similarly straightforward, with effective artificial lighting supplementing the natural daylight with little need for other services. Ground source or solar transfer systems could be incorporated to assist in providing a comfortable and stable environment. Toilets and other facilities would all be housed in the former Bath House building.

The opportunity exists to create a genuinely sustainable building, making good use of the existing Bath House while also developing a new structure, purpose built using simple materials and construction techniques. The existing Bath House should be retained and adapted to provide core facilities while the new Tapestry building should take its own distinctive form, responding specifically to the needs of the Tapestry itself. Together these two structures will provide a unique environment within a fascinating and attractive site.



Proposed development of Battle Living History Centre at Prestongrange Heritage Museum, to include the Prestonpans Tapestry Pavilion.

Acknowledging Our Supporters

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Our project has greatly benefitted from the support of the local community, Prestonpans Community Council, Prestounrange Arts Festival, East Lothian Council, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, The Lord MacDonald of Sleat, successive East Lothian MSPs John Home-Robertson and Iain Gray, successive Scottish Ministers of Culture Patricia Ferguson, Linda Fabiani & Michael Russell, the Royal Stuart Society and the 1745 Association. Also, a Committee of High Patronage was formed in 2006, which includes many of the heirs of Clan Chiefs and Hanoverians engaged in the battle in 1745.

The Founding Committee of High Patronage comprises:

Rt Hon The Earl of Airlie
His Grace The Duke of Atholl
Donald Cameron of Lochiel
Ranald Macdonald of Clanranald
Colin MacDonald of Glencoe
Ranald McDonell of Glengarry
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
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Sir Patrick Grant of Dalvey
(representer for Sir John Cope)
Sir John Hay of Park
Rt Hon The Earl of Home

The Trustees are:

Gareth Bryn-Jones – Chairman: Architect
Herbert Coutts MBE KM, Bailie of Dolphinstoun – retired Director of Culture and Leisure for the City of Edinburgh
Kristine Cunningham – Executive Trustee: PR, Education & Interpretation
John Curtis – Alan Breck Regiment of Prestonpans Volunteers
Pauline Jaffray – PJ Design and East Lothian Life
Arran Johnston – Executive Trustee: History, Re-enactments & Tapestry Touring
Peter MacKenzie – ELC Councillor & pioneer of The Battlefield ‘Annual Walks’
Richard MacKenzie – formerly Bankton House Residents’ Association
Sir Garth Morrison KT CBE – Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian
Pat O’Brien OBE – formerly Provost of East Lothian
Dr Gordon Prestounrange, Past Chairman (2006/2010), Baron of Lochnaw, Bailie of Prestounrange
Malcolm Scott – Entrepreneur
Dorie Wilkie – Executive Trustee: Prestonpans Tapestry
Avril Wills – Lady of Lochnaw
Mathew Wills of Prestounrange ACA – Baron of Prestounrange – Treasurer
Dr Julian Wills – Baron of Dolphinstoun
Sylvia Burgess – Trust Secretary

An extensive website has been developed since 2006 which holds all Trust documents, Minutes, a photo / DVD library and disseminates regular NewsNet items. Supporters are invited to register. It is available @ www.battleofprestonpans1745.org with email @ waukin@battleofprestonpans1745.org
The Prestonpans Tapestry has its own dedicated website @ www.prestonpanstapestry.org

Opposite: The Prince calls a halt to the battle and insists all prisoners must be helped, Mary Richardson.

Back cover: Highlanders marching 3 by 3 from Tranent along the Riggonhead Defile at Sam, to gain the low ground and launch their attack as the sun rises. Painting by Andrew Hillhouse.

