

...VICTORY...

...HOPE...

...AMBITION...

the battle of

PRESTONPANS

THE DREAM OF
THE PEOPLE OF
PRESTONPANS FOR
A MORE FITTING
COMMEMORATION
OF THE FAMOUS
VICTORY OF 1745

If you support this campaign, please help strengthen it by registering as a supporter at

www.battleofprestonpans1745.org

INTRODUCTION



The Battle of Prestonpans was the greatest victory of the Jacobite army led by Bonnie Prince Charlie. In less than 15 minutes his Highlanders decimated the Hanoverian army in Scotland – a victory that gave the impetus for their subsequent march into England.

Yet the actual site of this decisive battle is incorrectly marked and under increasing pressure from housing development. There is virtually nothing to interpret or present the battle to visitors that do find their way there. Although practically everyone in Prestonpans knows the significance of 21st September 1745 to their community, many are not sure precisely what took place that day.

One local history teacher has been determined to remedy this situation. For the past five years he has led interpretive Battlefield Walks and campaigned to have the site's importance recognised. His efforts have now inspired the community to accept responsibility for this important aspect of Scotland's heritage and the determination has grown that it must be better preserved and interpreted.

Some efforts have been made over the years to mark aspects of the battle, such as the memorial cairn and monument to the Hanoverian hero Colonel Gardiner – now in urgent need of repair. The 250th anniversary of the battle was celebrated with a re-enactment and the creation of a collection of artefacts, but they are rarely on display. Clearly something permanent and appropriate to the significance of the victory should be done.

The Prestonpans Community Council joined forces with the Prestoungrange Arts Festival to take a "grass roots" initiative. The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust has been formed to harness the ideas of the community and bring this *dream* to the attention of the nation. Support for the movement has come from far and wide – including the Royal Stuart Society and the 1745 Association. Descendant Clan Chiefs and Hanoverian representatives have been recruited and, with the support of the Royal Society for the Arts in Scotland, consultation and debate has been stimulated across the community.

And so today – Bonnie Prince Charlie's battle standard is raised once again. It is held aloft by the Prestonpans community; and as at Glenfinnan, Cameron of Lochiel has been amongst the first to pledge support!

The *Dream* presented in this document is ambitious but not unrealistic. It is a starting point for more concrete plans as further support and funding is secured. At the root of this initiative is the optimism and growing self-confidence of the people of Prestonpans. Their wish to have their famous battle site recognised mirrors the hope and ambition of the Jacobite followers which their victory at Prestonpans inspired so long ago.

*“Then hey! Johnnie Cope,
are ye waukin’ yet?
Or are your drums a-beatin’ yet?
If ye were waukin’, I wad wait,
To gang to the coals
i’ the morning”*

FROM THE POPULAR SONG OF THE TIME
‘JOHNNIE COPE’ ON THE IGNOBLE DEFEAT
OF THE GOVERNMENT COMMANDER.

Most of the front-line men were from the Highlands of Scotland. They were a breed apart, recognising no law but their own. Above all, these Highlanders were warriors. The unkempt, wild-looking men, carrying anything from French muskets to simple clubs, were without question the best fighters in Britain.

FROM THE BBC'S BATTLEFIELD
BRITAIN SERIES

Our *Dream* represents many interests within the community, each with their discrete priorities. It is the outcome of a wide-ranging consultation process over the last three years – triggered and monitored throughout by the Prestonpans Community Council.

Once realised our *Prestonpans Battle Dream* will:

- Provide a permanent and accessible resource centre for the interpretation of the Battle of Prestonpans, fitting for its important standing in Scottish history, with relevance to schools, the local community and UK and overseas visitors.
- Honour those who fought and died on both sides in the battle, evaluating the subsequent romanticisation of Bonnie Prince Charlie and Colonel Gardiner and the derogation of General Sir John Cope.
- Safeguard the battle site by ensuring it is protected from encroaching development, delineating the lines of battle, and facilitating proper archaeological exploration and preservation of all remaining artefacts and remains.
- 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, including the ancient monument at Birsley Brae, the Tranent/Cockenzie Waggonway, Bankton House, Preston Tower, Hamilton House, Preston Links Coalfield & Bings and Cockenzie Power Station.
- Become a self financing tourist destination that will greatly benefit the local and national economy, using its location astride the A1 just 10 miles east of Edinburgh to attract at least 250,000 visitors annually.
- Generate local employment, both directly and through ancillary local facilities, including a motel or hotel with an appropriate theme that can service the needs arising from the increased visitor numbers. The battle site will play a significant part in the continuing regeneration of Prestonpans which lost its entire industrial base in the 1960s.
- Use the arts, which are flourishing in Prestonpans, to underpin and strengthen the project by creating poetry, painting, music, drama and literature which has the battle as its theme.

OUR AIMS

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Photo: Linda Sneddon Photography

WHAT MADE VICTORY AT PRESTONPANS SO IMPORTANT IN 1745 – AND TODAY

*“The site lies completely encircled by modern development, mineral extraction, road and rail routes and appears to be a landscape under severe pressure...
...Prestonpans is potentially one of the most severely threatened battlefields in Scotland.”*

EXTRACT FROM A 2005 REPORT
BY THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST
FOR HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Charles' ambition when he landed in Scotland in 1745 was to regain the Scottish and English thrones, united in 1707, for his dispossessed family. With growing clan support he marched unopposed to capture Stirling and then Edinburgh, before confronting the Hanoverian King's forces, under Sir John Cope, at Prestonpans.

The Highlanders reviewed their opponent's position from Birsley Brae on September 20th and resolved not to attack downhill towards the Forth, across marsh land. Charles moved his army overnight through the Riggonhead defile to take the Hanoverians wholly by surprise at dawn on September 21st – attacking from the east. The two armies were of similar strength, but the 2,300 Highlanders decimated the government forces in less than 15 minutes, leaving 800 dead or wounded and taking 1,500 captive. This crushing victory is attributed to the element of surprise and the speed and ferocity of the Highlanders' onslaught.

As a result, Charles and his army believed themselves virtually invincible. This victory gave them all the confidence they needed for their subsequent march towards London to capture the crown for their Jacobite cause.

Of course Charles was defeated seven months later at Culloden – a tragic ending to a valiant campaign. His subsequent flight from Scotland, aided by Flora MacDonald, is a period of Scottish history known across the world – and one that is increasingly well interpreted and presented by the National Trust for Scotland at Culloden.

The enormous emotions stirred by the Prestonpans victory have also provided inspiration for artists and authors over the centuries. Both Sir Walter Scott, in *Waverley*, and Robert Louis Stephenson in *Kidnapped*, for instance, feature characters based on participants in the Battle of Prestonpans and make specific references to it.

In Prestonpans, the intention is not to focus on the tragic end to the campaign, but rather to commemorate the passionate and often divided loyalties across the Scottish nation, the tremendous feeling of optimism, and the outstanding displays of bravery. We wish to remember the elation, the hope and ambition for a cause, because it is vitally relevant today for our community.

We in Prestonpans have had our own Culloden with the decimation of our employment base by the 1960s as pits, brickworks, market gardening, harbour and fisheries, breweries, potteries, salt and soap works all fell.

Still this community has hope and ambition, a determination to succeed economically and a will to maintain its own distinct identity. The *Battle of Prestonpans Dream* represents a means of safeguarding the community, as well as a vital element of Scotland's heritage.





*“Follow me, gentlemen,
and by the blessing of
God I will this day make
you a free and happy
people.”*

THE PRINCE’S SPEECH BEFORE
THE BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS

There are new supporters for the *Dream* coming forward all the time. As well as backing from the local community, Prestonpans Community Council, Prestoungrange Arts Festival, The Lord Lyon King of Arms, The Lord MacDonald of Sleat, John Home-Robertson MSP, the Royal Stuart Society and the 1745 Association, a Committee of High Patronage has been formed which already includes many of the heirs of Clan Chiefs and Hanoverians engaged in the battle in 1745.

FOR THE PRINCE

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 McDonnell of Glengarry
Sir Malcolm MacGregor of MacGregor
Rt Hon The Earl of Perth

FOR GEORGE II

Rt Hon The Earl of Home
Sir Patrick Grant of Dalvey (representer for Sir John Cope)

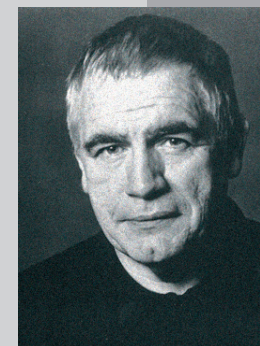
THE BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS (1745) HERITAGE TRUST

The Founding Trustees are:

Pat O’Brien – Provost of East Lothian and Councillor for Prestonpans
Peter MacKenzie – local history teacher and pioneer of The Battlefield Annual Walks
Garth Morrison CBE – Lord Lieutenant of East Lothian
Dr Gordon Prestoungrange – Baron of Prestoungrange and founder of the Prestoungrange Arts Festival
Gareth Bryn-Jones – architect
Pauline Jaffray – PJ Design and East Lothian Life
Kristine Cunningham – PR and marketing

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SUPPORT ACHIEVED TO DATE



CELEBRITY PATRON

The greatly respected Scottish actor Brian Cox has expressed his support for the *Dream* as follows:

*“Bonnie Prince Charlie’s
victory at Prestonpans
in 1745 was a defining
Scottish moment. It
filled the nation with
hope and optimism,
the belief that the
cause would be
triumphant. It should
be celebrated and I am
delighted to support
the campaign to ensure
it is!”*

The Battle *Dream* of the Prestonpans community has been documented, interpreted and developed by local architect Gareth Jones. The following pages summarise his detailed proposal for how the whole area of the battle engagement could be developed for the benefit of the community and nation as a whole. The intention is not to provide definitive plans, but to highlight the issues faced and make suggestions as to how they could be tackled – with the right level of financial backing.

PROTECTING THE SPACE

The Battle Site

There is no formal recognition of the battle site within existing Scottish legislation and in theory there is nothing at present to prevent housing and commercial development.

Battlefields fall outwith current conservation laws which concentrate on the protection of significant buildings and monuments. Responsibility for safeguarding the site falls entirely to East Lothian Council. While it undoubtedly has a will to protect the site, the council's current published plans do not specifically identify the site as being important.

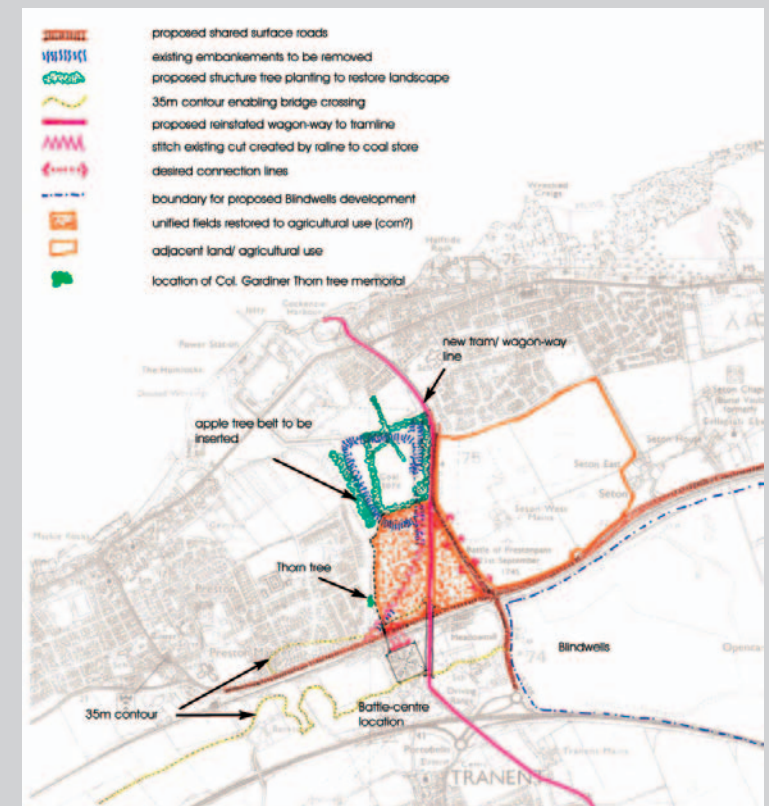
Historic Scotland is producing an inventory of significant Scottish battlefields and has already identified Prestonpans as one of the most vulnerable sites in Scotland. In its report, it will identify outline boundaries within which development should be controlled. Again, the local authority will be responsible for implementing these controls.

ACTION:

Conduct a thorough survey of features and buildings of significance and clearly identify and protect the battle site.

Buildings and Monuments

There are a large number of buildings, monuments and features in and around the battle area, each of which have considerable historic significance. Most are already protected as listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments and they add significantly to the importance of the area as a heritage destination.



www.battleofprestonpans1745.org

At present, the site of the battle is used for modern agriculture, for storage and processing of coal for Cockenzie Power Station and is partly derelict. The main road from Tranent dissects it and ownership is split between Scottish Power, the local authority and private individuals.

To properly preserve and present the site, it must first be consolidated, both in terms of access and management. Although single ownership of the site would be best, it is not essential, as long as there is a shared interest in its development and management.

Design solutions could be developed that would overcome all current barriers to access, creating an area that presents the site in a sympathetic and welcoming way, but still allows for the needs of a modern community.

The battle was fought over land that had been farmed for many hundred years – with evidence of defended prehistoric agricultural settlements. The land

also produced surface coal which was exploited from medieval times onwards.

It would not be practical to present the site exactly as it was on 21 September 1745, but 18th century management of the land could be re-instated, with a similar annual pattern of cultivation. The waggonway dissects the site and was used at the time to transport coal from Tranent to the coast. It should also be developed and presented, as should examples of the coal extraction processes of the time.

Within the protected area, there would also be ample opportunity for environmentally sound cultivation programmes for the benefit of the community.



CURING SCARS

ACTION:

Provide design solutions to overcome problems of access and fragmentation of the battle site.

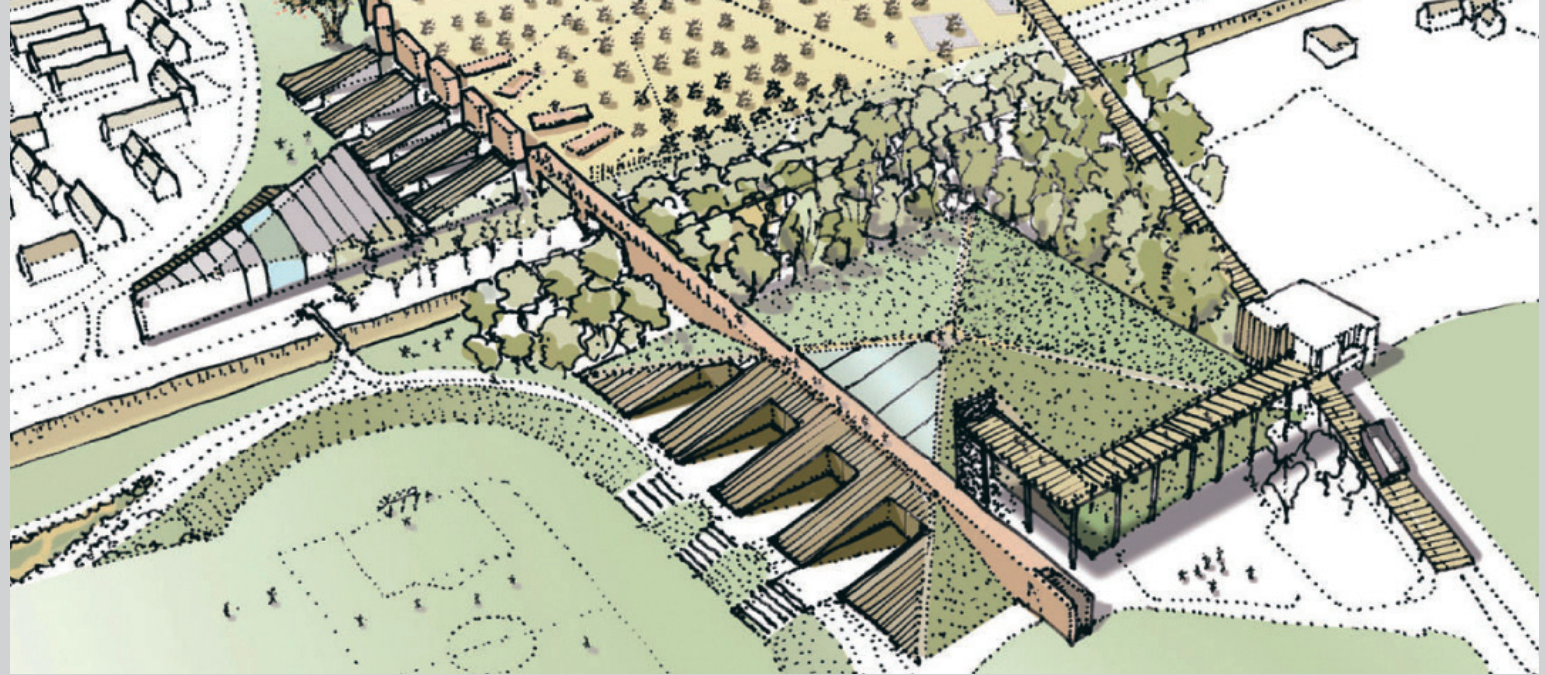
Consolidate ownership of the site – at least in terms of management. Present the area in an environmentally sound and historically sympathetic way.

BATTLE CENTRE

ACTION:

Create a powerfully designed and engaging visitor centre for the interpretation of the whole battle area, with year-round access for all. The arts will be especially used in the process of interpretation.

The existing Bing monument offers enormous advantages as the site of such a centre.



The site of the battle remains an evocative place. Its interpretation is important but care must be taken that this does not in itself compromise the integrity of the site.

There must be a focus for visitors which offers basic services and clear descriptions of the events – accessible to all and clearly signposted.

The former coal washing plant bing, directly to the south of the site, was sculpted into a pyramid-shaped monument in 1975. This structure could be developed into an innovative and engaging visitor centre which would have a number of key advantages:

Location: The bing is close to the battle site but is not on the archeologically sensitive site itself.

Access: The bing is served by existing access roads, paths and parking areas. Pedestrian access could be improved through the formation of a new raised link.

Visibility: The bing is clearly visible as a landmark and is high enough for the entire battle area to be visible from the top – offering wonderful opportunities for the progress of the battle to be interpreted for visitors.

Associations: The battle was fought around the coal workings and over the waggonway. The re-use of the monument formed from mining spoils is particularly pertinent.

The existing structure offers some very exciting design possibilities. This outline drawing offers speculative ideas at this stage which could readily form a starting point for further development.

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The production of coal has been important to Prestonpans since mediaeval times and the landscape is testament to this industry.

The waggonway and Cockenzie Power Station could be said to symbolise early and contemporary energy production in the area. Each has an impact on the battle site and should be taken into consideration in any development plans.

The Waggonway

Constructed in 1722, the waggonway linked the mines in Tranent with Cockenzie harbour. It was one of the first of its kind and consisted of a timber way on which hopper wagons full of coal were guided downhill. The empty wagons were then hitched to horses which would pull them back up to the mine.

During the 19th century a more recognisable railway was developed, but the bed and alignment of the original waggonway remain, although it is unmarked and unprotected from development.

Both because of its role in early industrialisation and because the battle was fought over part of it, the waggonway deserves to be protected and interpreted for future generations, with at least a section restored to its original state.



Cockenzie Power Station

The power station was built in 1968 on land occupied by a 19th century coal mine and partly reclaimed from the Forth.

While the generating station is north of the battle area, the fuel handling plant, storage compound and rail link occupy land over which the battle was fought. The power station's transmission lines, carried on steel pylons, cut through the site to the west and east of the waggonway and also disrupt views in and out of the site.

The plant is an important part of the local economy and a familiar landmark, but it is nearing the end of its life and is due to close by 2015. This raises the possibility of the land relevant to the battle area being released and restored and the pylons removed or at least realigned.



MONUMENTS TO COAL

ACTION:

Protect, interpret and restore the waggonway, especially where it intersects the battlefield.

Make sure the battle site is taken into consideration when Cockenzie Power Station is decommissioned and in the interim work with Scottish Power to improve all impacts.

MARKING THE ROUTE

ACTION:

Mark the whole route of the engagement – paths, roads and stopping points – creating a guided tour accessible on foot, by bike or car, interpreted by fixed signs, interactive media and artworks.

A curious aspect of the Battle of Prestonpans is the circular route taken by the armies before and during the conflict. Much of the Highlanders' success is attributed to the element of surprise they gained by circumventing the Government forces in the night and attacking at first light from the east rather than the south.

It is possible to follow much of this route today, but it is not marked in any way for the uninitiated. A properly signed and interpreted route would make it much more accessible and attractive to visitors. The paths, roads and stopping points can be clearly marked and walking, cycling or vehicle assisted tours offered, using a mix of local guides, recorded and interactive media and fixed interpretation material.

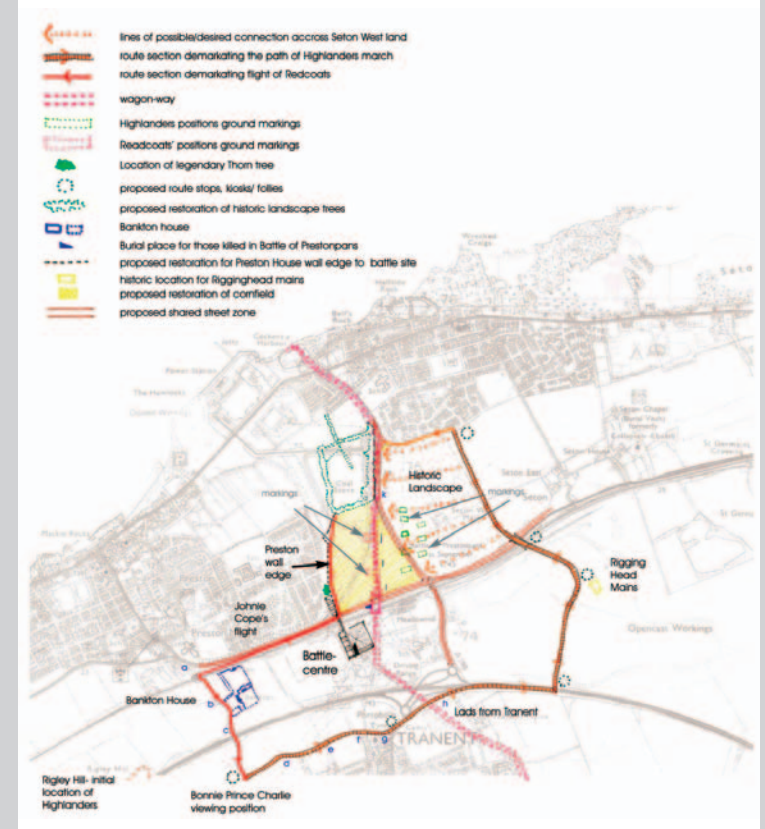
Art-Sculpture-Follies

The battle site lies within 10 miles of Scotland's capital, right next to the A1 and the main east coast railway line from London, yet its presence hardly registers with the thousands of travellers who pass by each day.

A massive artwork could be created to mark the site, clearly visible to all passers-by, which would become a seminal landmark for the battle and the town itself.

The form of this artwork should be guided by the events and characters of the battle itself. It could even become part of a series of sculptures, or follies, marking the route of both armies.

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The battle route



Prestonpans grew and prospered because of coal and its associated industries. Like many other communities, the town was economically devastated by the closure of its pits and a raft of other local enterprises in the mid 1970's.

But Prestonpans is a town with a future whose people have not let the decline of its industries defeat them. Within the community there is a will to capitalise on the town's heritage. The arts are playing a key role in the town's regeneration and it is gaining a world-wide reputation for its many murals.

Developing the site of the Battle of Prestonpans will undoubtedly create jobs for local people and income for the town as services develop to cater for visitors. It will also boost the reputation of the town itself, as the steward of an important aspect of Scotland's heritage.

Mining, pottery, salt panning, soap making and brewing were all flourishing industries in Prestonpans in 1745 as were the local harbours which serviced them.

None survive today, but these are all aspects of the town's history which should be honoured in any commemoration of the 1745 campaign.

That way, the industries which contributed to the town's economic decline in the last century, will help with its regeneration in this one.

The town has no accommodation available for visitors or major local functions. An appropriately themed hotel near the battle site would serve both the town's needs in respect of visitors to its heritage and Arts Festival and be a convenient and unusual location for meetings and conferences.

PRESTONPANS TODAY

ACTION:

Boost respect for the community through its stewardship of this important aspect of Scotland's heritage and provide increased local employment opportunities and a basis for ancillary services, including a themed hotel/motel.



THE WAY FORWARD

“What,” cried I. “Were you in the English army?”

“That was I,” cried Alan.

“But I deserted to the right side at Prestonpans – and that’s some comfort.”

I could scarcely share this view: holding desertion under arms for an unpardonable fault in honour. But for all I was so young I was wiser than say my thought.

EXTRACT FROM KIDNAPPED BY
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

The *Dream* presented should not be seen as a final proposal. It is intended to be a starting point, a rallying call, derived from extensive consultation within the community, and a means to demonstrate what could be possible with the right level of support.

Everyone agrees the battle site should be safeguarded and marked. But the Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust has launched its campaign to make it a planning and funding priority for government, heritage and development agencies.

The immediate priority is for development funding for a detailed feasibility assessment and planning process. The ultimate aim is to raise capital funding in the region of £7.5 million to create a wholly self-financing destination for the nation and its visitors within the next five years.

Please add your strength to this campaign by registering your support.

You can do this by signing the petitions now circulating in Prestonpans and also by registering your support on-line at <http://www.battleofprestonpans1745.org>

This website is also a good means of keeping up-to-date on the progress of the campaign.

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Battle mural painted by the Prestonpans community within the grounds of Prestonpans School.

