Surviving the Peace:

Public Access, Conservation and Military Heritage

ALGAO: UK

Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow



programme & abstracts











Thursday 30th September

Conference chairs: Iain Banks, Robin Turner, John Lawson

10.00 - 10.30	Registration, tea & coffee
10.30 – 10.40	Welcome
10.40 – 11.05	International Battlefield Heritage: a personal perspective Dr Tony Pollard (Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow)
11.05 – 11.30	Battlefield Sites as Tourist Attractions: meanings and interpretations Stephen Miles (PhD Student, Crichton Campus University of Glasgow)
11.30 – 11.55	Flodden 500 – the anniversary and the community project Dr Chris Burgess (Northumbria County Council)
11.55 – 12.20	Terrible Terrain! – marshalling resources to manage NTS battlefields Derek Alexander (National Trust for Scotland) and Jill Harden (freelance consultant)
12.20 – 12.40	Discussion
12.40 - 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 16.00	Tour of Culloden Battlefield Tony Pollard & National Trust for Scotland
16.00 – 1700	Discussion

Friday 1st October

09.30 - 09.35	Welcome
09.35 – 10.00	Researching, Interpreting and Conserving Battlefields: examples of community involvement. Dr Glenn Foard (Battlefields Trust)
10.00 – 10.25	Harvest and Heritage – a working partnership Joyce Jagger (Battlefield 1403 Trust)
10.25 – 10.50	The Battlefield of Philiphaugh Community Trust: a new initiative Oliver Hofer (Philiphaugh Community Trust)
10.50 - 11.00	Discussion

11.00 – 11.25	tea & coffee
11.25 – 11.50	1066 and all that: Interpreting the Battle of Hastings Dirk Bennett (English Heritage)
11.50 – 12.15	The Battle and the Vision: experiences of a community project Natasha Ferguson and Dr Tony Pollard (Centre for Battlefield Archaeology)
12.15 – 12.40	Losing ground at Pinkie: The Highs the Lows of dealing with a battle landscape under development control pressure. Bridget Simpson (East Lothian Council Archaeology Service)
12.40 – 13.15	Discussion and Closing Remarks

abstracts (by order of speaker)

Dr Tony Pollard

Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow

International Battlefield Heritage: a personal perspective

The first multi-faceted archaeological investigation of a Scottish battlefield took place at Culloden, the site of the last battle fought on British soil, in 2000. Since then, battlefield archaeology, and indeed the broader church of conflict archaeology, has developed from a fringe interest into an accepted sub-discipline within the archaeological mainstream. This presentation will provide an overview of a decade's worth of endeavour by an archaeologist who has been active in the field since those early beginnings. The speaker's first encounter with battlefields as an archaeologist was far away from Culloden, in South Africa, during the investigation of sites related to the Anglo-Zulu War of 1879. Since then he has engaged in projects as far-a-field as North Africa, South America and Europe and will draw on these experiences, as well as those closer to home, in order to provide a personal perspective on battlefields as heritage sites and the role of archaeology in their interpretation, preservation and promotion.



Stephen Miles

PhD Student, Crichton Campus University of Glasgow

Battlefield Sites as Tourist Attractions: meanings and interpretations

Battlefields have increasingly become important subjects for the tourist gaze and are manifestations of the phenomena of 'Dark' Tourism. As "fatal attractions" they make a significant contribution to the tourist industry especially when "managed" with interpretative and visitor facilities. Battlefields have varied cultural meanings and can provoke intense emotion even when outside of living memory. They can engage with visitors at many levels and possess multilayered and multifaceted interpretations.

This paper will address the factors that contribute to battlefield visitation and the affects such sites have on visitors. It draws on fieldwork currently being undertaken as part of a Doctoral thesis of sites in the UK and the Western Front. The reasons why battlefields are visited might include curiosity, patriotism, contemporary political beliefs, family connection, historical/educational interest or even a voyeuristic interest in death. In examining battlefield experiences

the role of tourist interpretation is presented as a positive force and one that can enrich the visitor experience through the imaginative and sympathetic communication of professional discourse.

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Dr Chris Burgess

Northumbria County Council

Flodden 500 - the anniversary and the community project

Since the completion of the Defence of Britain Project the growth of Volunteer archaeology in Northumberland has been exponential. Projects have looked at Pill Boxes, Coast Gun Batteries, WW1 Trenches and most recently the battlefield of Flodden. The volunteer experience in each case has been different, this paper will examine the differing aspects of the 'open all areas' volunteer policy of the Flodden Project and how it has managed to be 'no holds bared' when it comes to encouraging volunteers to take on all tasks relating to the work surrounding the Flodden 500 project. As a counter point it will also touch on the work of Coquetdale Community Archaeology who have engaged in a number of smaller scale projects and of the Blyth Battery Volunteers who are the inheritors of a larger scale lottery project.

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Derek Alexander

National Trust for Scotland and Jill Harden freelance consultant

Terrible Terrain! - marshalling resources to manage NTS battlefields

The National Trust for Scotland looks after more parts of battlefields than any other body in Scotland. NTS was set up in 1931 coincidentally at the same time that the Borestone site at Bannockburn was protected from development. Derek Alexander will review the range of sites in Trust care including the well-known landscapes of Culloden, Bannockburn, Glenshiel, and Killiecrankie, along with the less well-known sites of Auldearn, Fyvie and Dunkeld. Then Jill Harden will discuss her experience of working on the new visitor experience at Culloden. Long term archaeological research at this battlefield, including geophysics, trial trenching and standing building survey, has allowed a much more detailed understanding of the battle. The interpretation inside the new centre now ties in closely with what people experience when they visit the field itself. New footpaths and interpretation points explain the disposition of troops and the progress of the battle. However, one of the biggest ongoing challenges is the continued management of the vegetation cover.

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Dr Glenn Foard

Formerly the Battlefields Trust, now University of Huddersfield

Researching, Interpreting and Conserving Battlefields: examples of community involvement

The Battlefields Trust has run two large and several small scale battlefield surveys over the last decade. The two major surveys, at Edgehill in 2004-7 and (with Leicestershire County Council) at Bosworth from 2005 to 2010, have been implemented with lottery funding. In both cases volunteers have formed a core of the survey teams, and not just in the metal detecting but also in other aspects of the studies. On lesser surveys, in England and Belgium, volunteers have again had a crucial role. Without the volunteers the work would have been impossible, but not all aspects of the collaboration have proved successful and certain limitations have to be recognised in what can and can't be expected of volunteers in battlefield investigations.

Joyce Jagger

Battlefield 1403 Trust

Harvest and Heritage - a working partnership

Why would anyone visit a battlefield? It is just an empty field. There is so much expectation now and competition for day out entertainment. There is an expectation of high standards and excitement – partly due to programmes on the television raising our hopes of finding buried treasure.

We need another reason for visiting; one which is sympathetic to the subject but is in line with modern day expectations. We had two key objectives:

- To provide a dedicated heritage centre for the site of the Battle of Shrewsbury which will enhance the existing interpretational, educational, heritage and tourism value of the battlefield
- To diversify the existing farm business, reducing its reliance on income from conventional agricultural sources. www.battlefield1403.com

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Olivier Hofer

Philiphaugh Community Trust

The Battlefield of Philiphaugh Community Trust: a new initiative

This project was born with an aim to create a fully-interactive educational programme for local schools and to promote the battlefield to the public; attracting visitors to the battlefield and ultimately the local area. This was done by linking the local community (Selkirk) into the project and encouraging archaeological excavations of this important historical site.

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Dirk Bennett

English Heritage

1066 and all that: Interpreting the Battle of Hastings

The 14 October 1066 is one of the best-known and most important dates in British history. Dirk Bennett describes how the new interpretation at Battle Abbey was planned and implemented and summarizes the underlying concepts and practical solutions.

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Natasha Ferguson and Dr Tony Pollard

Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow

The Battle and the Vision: experiences of a community project

The Battle of Prestonpans Archaeology Project is the first investigation to focus on the archaeology of this important battle. The project was carried out by the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow on behalf of the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project was also part of a wider venture by the Trust to enhance the understanding and presentation of the battlefield; this included the involvement of the local community and local secondary schools which participated in archaeological workshops devised by the Centre. The project also included a metal detector survey of the battlefield, which resulted in a reinterpretation of the position of the battle, moving it approximately 800m westwards from its traditional site.

Although the project was undoubtedly an overall success this paper will also discuss certain issues which arose from this community project, including the ability to recruit volunteers; recording archaeology related to the battle within a suburban environment and the involvement of local metal detecting clubs.

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Bridget Simpson

East Lothian Council Archaeology Service

Losing ground at Pinkie: The Highs the Lows of dealing with a battle landscape under development control pressure

This short talk takes a look at how one local authority is currently addressing the problems of dealing with an unprotected, major battle site in East Lothian, which is under considerable development pressure. The paper describes the problems involved with the piecemeal development of a battle site; what archaeological work has taken place to date and what lessons have been learnt; how development and fieldwork can provide real opportunities to help understand, and foster greater awareness of, battle landscapes but also why it is so important to have comprehensive development plans and strategies in place in order to manage and conserve the fragile and often intangible remains of battle landscapes, when there is such an increased pressure on land reserves.