

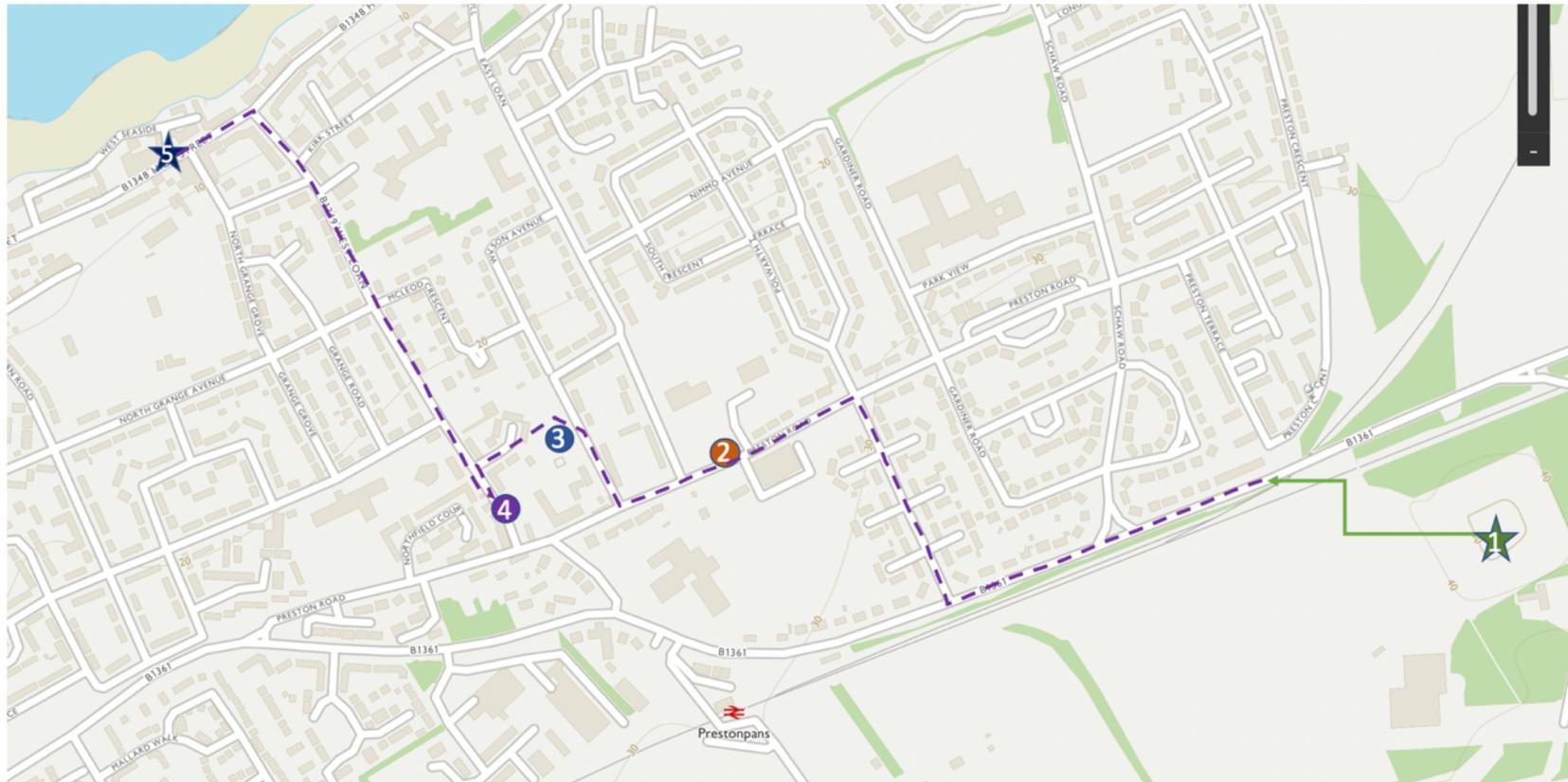
GAME 1 – PRESTONPANS HISTORIC SITES TRAIL

Can you answer all our questions correctly?

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- 1 = Prestonpans Battlefield Viewpoint
- 2 = Preston Market Cross
- 3 = Preston Tower
- 4 = Hamilton House
- 5 = Prestonpans War Memorial



PLEASE RESPECT THE HISTORIC SITES AND BE MINDFUL OF TENANTS LIVING IN OR NEAR THEM. WE DO NOT CONDONE ENTERING OR TRESPASSING WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE PROPERTIES OWNERS ESPECIALLY AT HAMILTON HOUSE PLEASE ONLY ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM A DISTANCE.



Prestonpans Historic Sites Trail

Site One: Prestonpans Battlefield Viewpoint

In the breaking light of a September morning 275 years ago, on that flat plain below you that is now covered in houses, trees and a scattering of remaining agricultural fields, two rival armies met in a violent encounter that marked the first significant military engagement of the Jacobite uprising of 1745. The battle only lasted around fifteen minutes, but the blood spilled, lives lost and history made on that small strip of land between you and the sea have echoed into legend ever since.

Charles Edward Stuart, the Bonnie Prince, having successfully taken most of Edinburgh a few days before, had learned that a Hanoverian force had landed at Dunbar under the command of Sir John Cope. Camped with his men at Duddingston, he marched them overnight to Tranent on the 20th-21st September and at around 4am the Jacobite forces were led through the marshy ground to the south of Cope's sleeping troops.

The badly disciplined Hanoverian force was completely routed within moments of hearing the first blood-curdling yell that heralded the oncoming "Highland Charge" so-favoured by the vanguard of the Jacobite army. Many of the raw, untried Government troops broke and immediately ran upon sight of the advancing Highlanders, leaving a few scattered colleagues vulnerable to the oncoming wave.

The Hanoverian commander, upon seeing all was lost, fled the battlefield on horseback with a few officers and mounted men and did not stop until he reached Carlisle. His retreat is commemorated in the name of the road opposite the Primary School that he used to make good his escape and in the famous song by Adam Skirving, a local farmer who came to view the battlefield after the fight was over, "Hey Johnnie Cope are ye waukin yet?".

Read a fuller account of the battle and the Jacobite uprising in the history boards provided

which had been given burgh status in 1552 and was wholly separate from "the Pans" of Preston, which was further down the East Loan along the shore of the Firth. Once surrounded by homes, shops, workshops, trading booths and possibly a small medieval church, the Mercat Cross and village of Preston all sat within the shifting shadows of the nearby imposing medieval Tower you will visit next.

Constructed in 1617, the octagonal structure would have formed a robust centre-piece for weekly markets and the massive annual fair on

attracting attention by ringing a bell or banging a drum, a tradition that carried on well into the 19th century.

Some twenty feet above the parapet, atop its stone column, sits the national animal of Scotland, the mythical Unicorn. Rather than be chained with an ordinary collar, it wears a royal crown around its throat and clutches between its hooves a shield emblazoned with a lion rampant, the symbol of Scotland's royal family. It is arguably the finest historic market cross in the country still in its original location and it was used as the inspiration for the 19th century reconstruction of the market cross in Edinburgh. It is now in the care of Historic Environment Scotland.

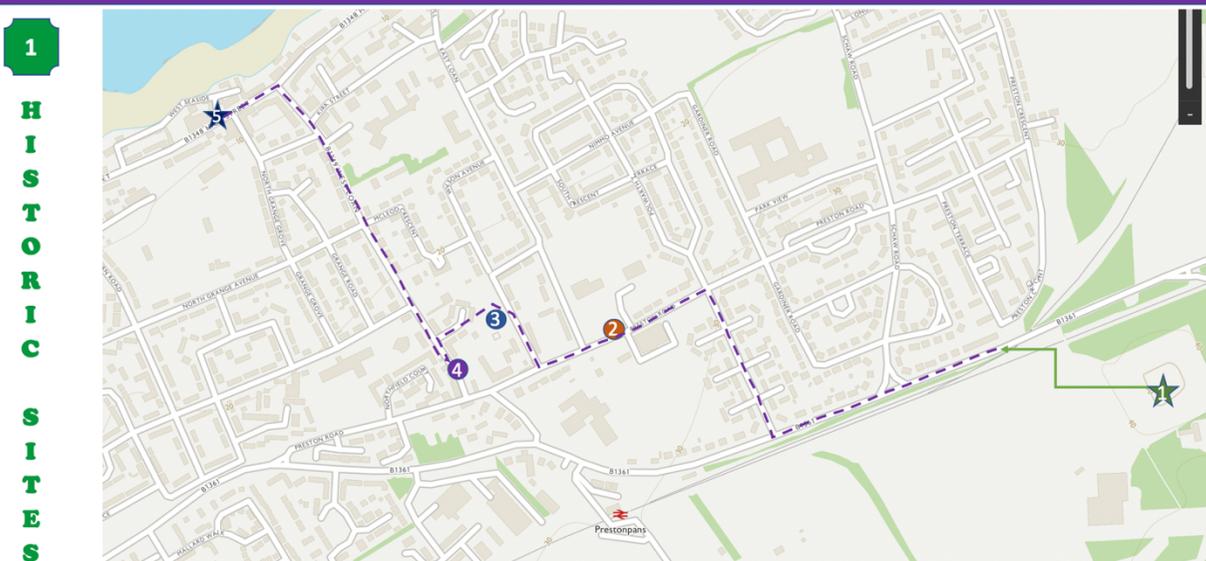
Site Three: Preston Tower

Violently besieged by invading armies on at least two separate occasions, it is today difficult to imagine such scenes, surrounded as the Tower is now by a tranquil and beautifully manicured park and hundreds of modern houses and gardens.

Nonetheless, Preston Tower was once a site of vital strategic importance and its position, close to one the busiest north-south traveller routes outside Edinburgh, meant that it drew the hostile attentions of invading English forces under the Earl of Hertford in 1544 and the army of Oliver Cromwell in 1650. We do not now know what happened to its

unfortunate occupants after surrendering following each short siege, but on both occasions the tower was burned to a shell.

According to one eminent local historian, the lower part of Preston Tower was first built around the year 1365, probably by the Seton family, longstanding allies of the Bruce dynasty. It passed in the latter 14th century, possibly by



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by the Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust at the top of this bin made from the waste materials from the nearby coal mines that also used to operate nearby.

Site Two: Preston Mercat Cross

This unique, four-hundred-year-old market cross once sat at the centre of the thriving little medieval village of Preston (or Priest's Town)

St Jerome's day (the second Thursday of October), when hundreds would have gathered for the festivities from all over the county. It contains a single room, rumoured to have been the village gaol for local miscreants following the falling out of use of the pit prison in the nearby Tower. A staircase leads up to a parapet from which important proclamations and other news would be bellowed by a local worthy after

marriage, into the hands of a cadet branch of the increasingly powerful Hamiltons. It stayed in their hands for several centuries, during which time they constructed its upper storeys, in 1626, adding on top of the medieval defensive tower a small palace as befitting the cultural aspirations of a family on the rise during the European Renaissance.

The Hamiltons rebuilt the tower following the siege by Cromwell's troops, only to watch its sumptuous wooden painted ceilings, carved interiors and rich tapestries burn again, following an accidental fire this time, in 1663. The family had already built a more convenient small home (possibly as a dower house) at ground level nearby, now called Hamilton House, so decided not to rebuild Preston Tower.

Remaining open to the elements ever since, the partially ruinous Tower has been at the heart of the growing town of Prestonpans for the last two centuries. Owned by the National Trust for Scotland since the late 1960s and in the care of East Lothian Council since 1972, Preston Tower is about to enjoy a neo-Renaissance as a restoration project has just got underway which finally hopes to restore public access to the Tower, after many decades of being unable to gain entry, by sometime next year.

Site Four: Hamilton House

You would be forgiven for overlooking the low, white-washed building on the corner of West Loan and Station Road as just another small but unremarkable building in the busy little coastal town. But look more closely and the small architectural features like its ornate pediments on its dormer windows, crowstep gables and various carvings reveal a far more interesting history. It is an outstanding example of national

importance of a style of 17th century building known as a Laird's house or seat.

Built in 1628 and known today as Hamilton House, it was previously known as the "Dower House", "the Barracks" or "Magdalens' House", after its builder, Lord Magdalens. Some interesting features to look out for around the exterior include the decorated coats of arms of

widen the road. Only a small projecting wing, that once led into the courtyard, was lost when the West Loan was eventually widened and the remaining portion of the house was bought and partially restored by the National Trust for Scotland in 1937. Since then, the house has been let as a family home to a series of private tenants and remains so now. Please respect the privacy of its current occupants as you view it

The 7ft tall sandstone statue of a soldier, wearing the uniform of the local 8th Battalion Royal Scots Regiment, on top of his 9ft high commemorative pedestal was unveiled at the foot of Ayre's Wynd in front of a huge crowd on the 30th April 1922. The names of 143 local casualties were carved in alphabetical order on three sides of the pedestal. After war had sadly war engulfed the world once again, between

1939 and 1945, the sacrifice of a further 40 local men would come to be commemorated on the sloping tablet placed at the foot of the memorial.

In 1962, to accommodate widening and modernisation of the High Street, the war memorial was shifted back a few metres from its original site adjacent to the road to its current position inside the hollowed out shell of a historic shorefront building. It was restored in 2017-2018 by Prestonpans Community Council and East Lothian Council with the assistance of the War Memorial Trust.

Pause now for a moment and read some of the names carved upon it and reflect for a moment upon the lives of these young men who once wandered through the very streets that you have just walked and who once witnessed many of the buildings and sights that you have just seen.

Please do send us your photos and selfies from each site on Facebook group and on Twitter at @pennypitsport or Instagram at @pennypittrust

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its builder and his wife Katherine Sympson, their initials, various carvings and the inscription "PRAISE BE THE LORD MY STRENGTH AND MY REDEIMER" carved beneath a winged soul, acanthus leaves and a large thistle.

In addition to being a home, Hamilton House also briefly became a military barracks in the late 18th century when the fear of a French invasion was at its height and in the 19th century it became a tavern. By the 1930s, the ancient building had been split into four houses for local farm workers and was in grave danger of demolition when the town council decided to

from the outside today.

Site Five: Prestonpans War Memorial

At the end of World War One, the majority of villages, towns and cities across the country sought a fitting way to commemorate the sacrifice of those men and women from their communities that had lost their lives during or as a direct consequence of the 1914-18 conflict. Prestonpans Town Council chose a design by internationally renowned Scottish sculptor William Birnie Rhind to honour their fallen.



