

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields

The Battle of Linlithgow Bridge

Designation Record

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields is a list of nationally important battlefields in Scotland. A battlefield is of national importance if it makes a contribution to the understanding of the archaeology and history of the nation as a whole, or has the potential to do so, or holds a particularly significant place in the national consciousness. For a battlefield to be included in the Inventory, it must be considered to be of national importance either for its association with key historical events or figures; or for the physical remains and/or archaeological potential it contains; or for its landscape context. In addition, it must be possible to define the site on a modern map with a reasonable degree of accuracy.

The aim of the Inventory is to raise awareness of the significance of these nationally important battlefield sites and to assist in their protection and management for the future. Inventory battlefields are a material consideration in the planning process. The Inventory is also a major resource for enhancing the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of historic battlefields, for promoting education and stimulating further research, and for developing their potential as attractions for visitors.

Contents

Name	Date of Addition to Inventory
Alternative Name(s)	Date of Last Update
Date of Battle	Overview and Statement of
Local Authority	Significance
NGR Centred	Inventory Boundary

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LINLITHGOW BRIDGE

Alternative Names: None

4 September 1526

Local Authority: Falkirk / West Lothian

NGR centred: NS 982 767

Date of Addition to Inventory: 30 November 2011

Date of last update: 14 December 2012

Overview and Statement of Significance

The Battle of Linlithgow Bridge is significant as the largest attempt to free the young James V from the control of the Earl of Angus by military means. James himself was forced to attend the battle on Angus' side, although he was able to delay his own arrival until after the fighting had concluded. The attempt was ultimately unsuccessful, leaving James in the hands of Angus' ever growing power, and leads to the death of the Earl of Lennox, James' close confidante and friend.

The Battle of Linlithgow Bridge was fought between the Earl of Lennox and the Earl of Arran on 4 September 1526 as part of an ongoing struggle for control over the 14-year old King James V. Lennox was marching on Edinburgh to free the King from the control of the Earl of Angus, when he encountered an army under the Earl of Arran at Linlithgow Bridge. As the bridge over the Avon was held against him, he marched downstream to a ford from where he attacked upslope, hoping to deal with Arran's men before reinforcements could arrive from Edinburgh. However, he was unsuccessful and after a long push of pikes, his men broke as Angus arrived with fresh troops.

In the rout that followed, Lennox was taken prisoner, disarmed and then killed. Angus remained in control of the young King for another two years until James escaped from Edinburgh and began to reign directly; Angus was forced to flee to England as his lands were confiscated.

Inventory Boundary

The Inventory boundary defines the area in which the main events of the battle are considered to have taken place (landscape context) and where associated physical remains and archaeological evidence occur or may be expected (specific qualities). The landscape context is described under *battlefield landscape*: it encompasses areas of fighting, key movements of troops across the landscape and other important locations, such as the positions of camps or vantage points. Although the landscape has changed since the time of the battle, key characteristics of the terrain at the time of the battle can normally still be identified, enabling events to be more fully understood and interpreted in their landscape context. Specific qualities are described under *physical remains and potential*: these include landscape features that played a significant role in the battle, other physical remains,

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such as enclosures or built structures, and areas of known or potential archaeological evidence.

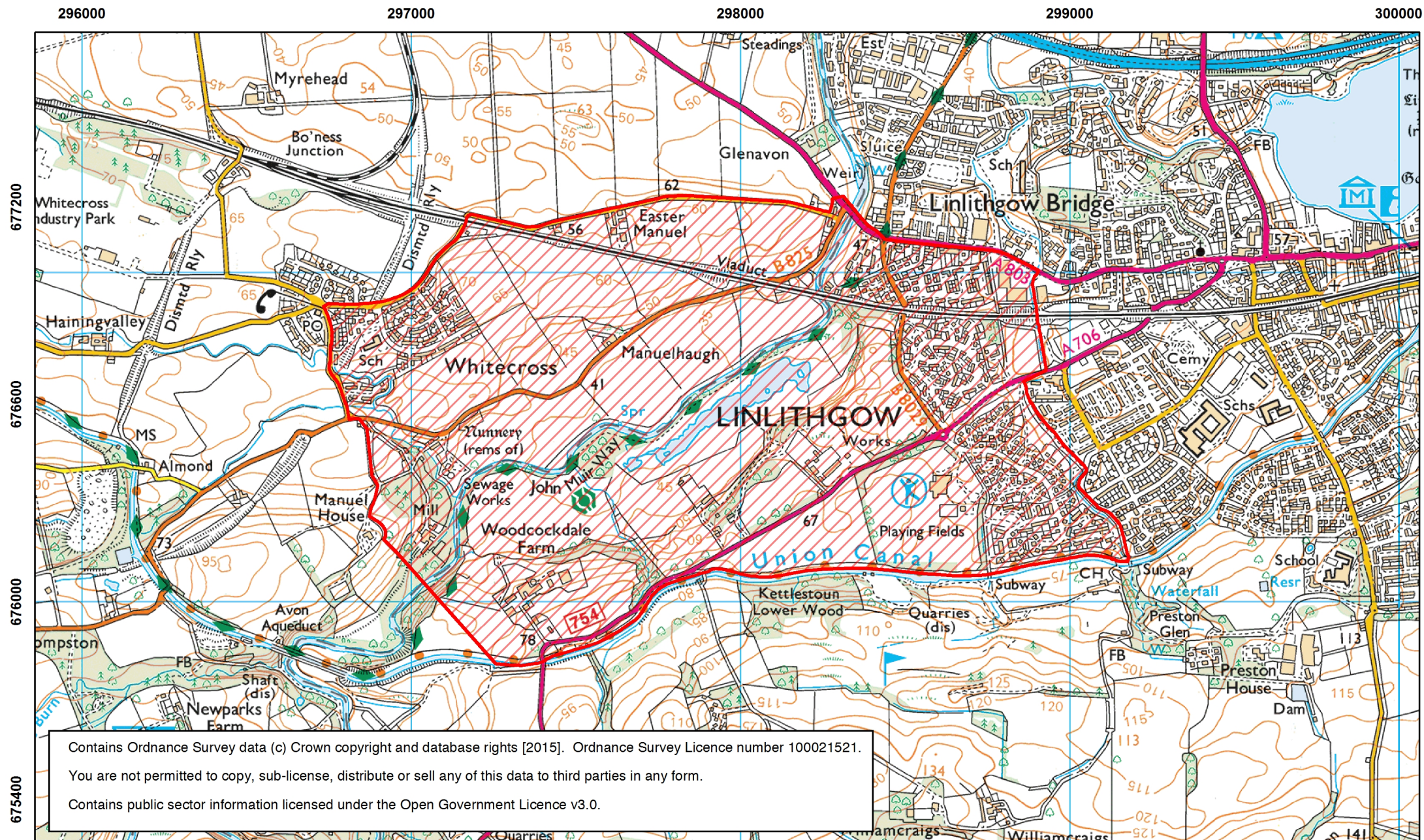
The Inventory boundary for the Battle of Linlithgow Bridge is defined on the accompanying map and includes the following areas:

- Peace/Pace Hill, which was where the eastern end of the bridge was defended by Arran's men.
- Easter Manuel, where Lennox's force approached the bridge initially and where Lennox's potential artillery may have been located.
- The Manuel nunnery, which marks the rough location of Lennox's crossing point of the River Avon at the ford.
- The south-eastern slopes of Manuel Hill and the area around Whitecross, marking Lennox's line of approach and his subsequent movement to the ford.
- The area of the bridge across the Avon, in a similar place to the current bridge of the A803.
- The area around Kettilstoun and Linlithgow Leisure Centre, where some of the fighting between Lennox and Arran's forces may have occurred and through which Angus and his force arrived to the battlefield.

The Inventory of Historic Battlefields - Boundary

Linlithgow Bridge 4 September 1526

Local Authority: Falkirk / West Lothian



 Inventory of Historic Battlefields boundary

0 500 1,000
Meters