

INTRODUCTION:

This Brief has been produced by The Pollock Hammond Partnership, Architects, in response to a request from The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust. The Brief has developed from a draft through consultation with the Trustees and wider consultation with the community in Prestonpans and the surrounding area.

BACKGROUND:

The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust (BPHT) was formed in 2006 and currently comprises of 14 Trustees, most of who live within Prestonpans or elsewhere in East Lothian. The objectives of the Trust center on the protection, enhancement and interpretation of the Battle of Prestonpans. The Trust's interest is not however restricted to a single historical event in isolation and it also promotes the wider appreciation and understanding of the associated historical events before and after 1745, including the artistic and cultural legacy of the Battle.

The Trust has developed a number of strategies for advancing its aim and objectives, including:

The provision of a temporary Visitor Centre at Meadowmill in Prestonpans during the Summer of 2007. The temporary facility was staffed by volunteer local guides and attracted visitors from a wide area;

The purchase and fitting-out of a mobile *Battle Bus*, enabling the Trust to tour East Lothian with a small exhibition centred on the events of the Battle and explaining the objectives of The Trust;

Establishment and management of what it hopes will become an annual weekend of events focussed on the Battle. The events, held around the anniversary of the Battle in 2007 and 2008 and scheduled for September 2009, have involved battle re-enactment societies and local volunteers in a series of re-enactments, tableau and other related cultural events;

Commissioning of a comprehensive archaeological brief, which is currently being undertaken by the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology (Glasgow University). The programme includes desktop and field based studies involving conventional archaeological techniques as well as metal detector surveys and community based surveys both within the built up sections of the site and on the less disturbed areas within and adjacent to the Battle site.

The support, commissioning and publication of factual historic research and archive literature relating to the battle and of associated artistic material.

The support, commissioning, publication and presentation of contemporary visual and performance arts derived from the Battle and associated events.

BATTLE CENTRE OBJECTIVES:

The Trust hopes to create a nationally significant facility to mark the site of and educate visitors about the Battle of Prestonpans and other battles fought in the surrounding area within East Lothian. These include the battles of Pinkie Cleugh(1547), Dunbar (1296), Dunbar (1650), Athelstaneford (832) and the siege of Haddington (1548).

The new Battlefield Centre building MUST:

- Relate clearly with the Battle site and allow visitors to experience the site first hand, through views out and direct links onto the site;
- Be architecturally significant and of nationally recognised quality;
- Be exciting;
- Be outward looking and inclusive;
- Be a landmark structure;
- Provide all visitors with a lasting memory of their visit;
- Encourage visitors to tour the wider site, including Preston and Tranent Church, as well as the other nearby battle sites;
- Be environmentally and financially sustainable;
- Be flexible, to accommodate possible future expansion;
- Include flexible facilities capable of providing a resource for the study of the battle and use of those interested in the event;

The Battlefield Centre will be capable of meeting the demand and capacities identified in the 2006 RGA study. The Architectural Brief has been developed with direct reference to the visitor projections noted in the study.

The new Battlefield Centre building COULD:

- Use local materials;
- Reference local or period building forms;
- Be totally or partially self-sustaining in terms of energy use;
- Function either in isolation from or alongside the nearby Meadowmill sports developemnt;

The new Battlefield Centre building MUST NOT:

- Be inward looking or insular;
- Be costly to operate, both in environmental and financial terms;
- Require significant ongoing maintenance;
- In any way damage or compromise the Battle Site;
- Conflict with nearby commercial and strategic site operations or with the functioning of the Meadowmill sports venues;

TRANSPORT:

The Battlefield Centre must be served by adequate vehicular access and car and coach parking, as well as by clear and safe walking routes from Prestonpans railway station, Cockenzie and Tranent and cycle routes linking to the wider NCN and local routes;

ACCESSIBILITY:

The Centre must be fully accessible to all and must comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Every aspect of the design must be developed with full regard to the varying needs of the building's users.

SCHEDULE OF SPACE REQUIREMENTS:

The Schedule of Space Requirements has been drafted with reference to the RGA economic viability study and objectives of The Battle of Prestonpans Heritage Trust. The table is not exhaustive or definitive and is intended to act as a guide to the basic spaces necessary for the functioning of the Battle Centre. Areas are provided for guidance only and have been calculated, where possible, to comply with general legislative standards.

The Prestonpans Battlefield Centre should include:

ENTRANCE LOBBY: 4-8 m².

A secure but welcoming entrance, obvious to visitors arriving by whatever means and offering shelter from the elements.

RECEPTION SPACE: 25-50 m²

The principal arrival point for all visitors. A clear orientation pace from which visitors must be able to decide where to go next. The space must be large enough to cater for the arrival of large groups (coach parties) but not so large or open as to feel unwelcoming or cold.

RECEPTION AND PAY DESK:

Within the Reception Space, a purpose designed reception desk with ticketing facilities. Could be integrated with the shop sales or Tourist Information desks. Suitable for use by 2-3 receptionists.

SHOP:

Shop for the sale of books, DVDs, locally produced or themed products. Located adjacent to the Reception Space.

Shop floor: Open space for display stands, shelving and counters. 40-60 m².

Sales desk: Open to both the shop and Reception Space, sufficient for two or three assistants;

Shop store: Secure store, if possible with access independent from the principal entrance. 10-20m².

TOURIST INFORMATION: 6-12 m²

An area adjacent to the Reception Space capable of use as a Tourist Information centre, including space for the display of leaflets and posters as well as a service counter for a maximum of two people but which may not be staffed permanently. The service counter should ideally be linked to the shop sales desk.

PUBLIC TOILETS: 82m²

Robust but well appointed public toilets, located adjacent to the Reception Space and accessible for use by visitors using all of the facilities, including the café:

Male: 3 wc cubicles, 4 urinals (30m²)

Female: 10 wc cubicles (40m²)

Accessible/Baby Change: 2 accessible wc, 1 baby change (12m²)

GALLERY: 25-50m²

A space set aside, either within the Reception Area or perhaps adjacent to it or on a route to one of the other non-pay areas, suitable for the display and sale of art produced by local and visiting artists. The Gallery must allow for the display of as many forms of visual art as practically possible. Possibly overlapping with other spaces.

EDUCATION ROOM: 50-75m²

A large area for use either by Centre staff or incoming teachers, adjacent to either the Exhibition or Reception Space. The room must be capable of comfortably accommodating a group of 30 children or adults. It should provide traditional and contemporary education facilities and allow for a strong focus on hands-on education. There should be storage for artefacts and teaching aids.

TEMPORARY EXHIBITION SPACE: 40m²

A core area, with access directly from the Reception Area, allowing for the display of temporary or touring exhibitions. The space must be capable of operating on a free or paid entry basis.

EXHIBITION AND INTERPRETATION: 100 – 150m²

The principal space or spaces in the Centre. At the initial design stages the Exhibition's content will not be fully resolved but the Exhibition space should provide a variety of large, constrained, closed and open space. Visitors should become immersed in the exhibition but should also be given views of the site or surrounding area.

EXHIBITION THEATRE/CINEMA: 80m² circular/part circular, double height
The Exhibition should include a theatre or cinema space, perhaps suitable for small scale performance or re-enactments or for projected or other AV display, perhaps on the Imax principal. The space will not be used either as a conventional theatre or cinema but may be used for related performance, independently of the other exhibition areas.

CAFETERIA: 150 m² seating 60 and including servery

A bright and open Cafeteria, easily accessed from the Reception Area. The Cafeteria should normally operate as a self-service facility with a variety of table sizes and layouts, It may incorporate several independent but linked spaces, in order that groups or special parties may be catered for independently of the regular custom. At least some of the spaces should offer views out to either the Battle Site or wider surrounding area and should offer the capacity to open out to external dining areas when the weather allows.

SERVERY: within Cafeteria

A single or perhaps split servery for the sale of hot and cold foods and light snacks, drinks and cakes. At least two till points must be provided.

KITCHEN: 30-40 m²

A fully equipped catering standard kitchen suitable for the preparation of all food available within the Cafeteria.

KITCHEN STORE: 15-20m²

A fully equipped catering standard store for all kitchen goods, including built in refrigeration. There should be direct access for deliveries to either the Kitchen or Kitchen Store.

CAFETERIA STORE: 6-10m²

A small store cupboard adjacent to the Cafeteria and external area for the storage of tables and chairs.

STAFF ROOM: 15-20m²

A small but comfortable room with chairs and lockers for use by staff preparing for or completing their shifts.

STAFF TOILETS: 12m²

Toilets for the exclusive use of staff. Two independent and fully accessible toilets with a single shower/toilet.

VIEWING GALLERY:

Perhaps adjacent to or within the Cafeteria or one of the other spaces, a clear space with extensive views to the Battle Site and, if possible, wider area. The Viewing Gallery may link to an adjacent external viewing platform. The viewing gallery should be accessible to all visitors.

LIBRARY/RESEARCH ROOM: 12m²

A room available to visitors on an appointment only basis, providing permanent storage of literature or other research material. The Library should therefore include book storage, document storage, IT facilities and desk space for 2-3 people.

VIEWPOINT:

The top of the existing pyramid should, if possible, be made fully accessible to visitors, with much improved interpretation. The viewpoint should remain accessible at all times.

LINK TO BATTLESITE:

The Battle Centre must have direct pedestrian links onto the Battle Site itself. This should include much improved access separating visitors from traffic and the railway line. The pedestrian link should extend to other related sites as far as is practically possible, including Cockenzie, Tranent and Prestonpans.

STRATEGY FOR BATTLE SITE:

The Centre must relate directly to the battle Site and visitors should be encouraged to visit it. A strategy for the protection of the site can only be finalised following completion of the historical and archaeological study but interpretation on the site should be improved. An increase in interpretation and visitor numbers should not however compromise or damage the site.

VEHICLE PARKING:

The vehicle parking area must be accessible directly from the main road or Meadowmill access road. It must be independent of the Meadowmill parking area and should be integrated with its woodland setting, avoiding if possible a single unbroken paved surface. All paving must be permeable.

Cars/Motorbikes: 80-100 car spaces, 8 motorbike spaces

Coaches: 6 coach parking spaces

Bicycles: 12 bicycle spaces on ss stands

BUILDING SERVICES:

HEATING;

Should be based on sustainable technologies, possibly including solar or ground source heat sources.

VENTILATION;

Full air conditioning should be avoided but central air handling may be provided with heat recovery and control.

WATER:

Public water supply with minimum water storage.

ELECTRICS:

Public electricity supply. Consideration may be given to the inclusion of photovoltaic generators on the slopes of the pyramid.

LIGHTING:

Natural daylighting where practically possible balanced by a sensitive low energy artificial lighting scheme. Well designed low energy external lighting to car park and to pyramid faces.

FIRE ALARM:

Full zoned fire detector and remote alarm system.

FIRE SPRINKLER:

Sprinkler system with minimum water storage.

CONCLUSIONS:

The Prestonpans Battlefield Centre will be a major facility and destination for visitors from throughout Britain and abroad. It must fulfill the objectives of the Trust and become an internationally known landmark building as well as a valuable and inclusive community facility.