



'Statement of Significance' to the Battlefield

This chapter looks to National Park Service guidelines for historic American battlefields¹ and 2013 Plan methodology to describe the particular significance (termed 'Statement of Significance') of southern battlefield Landscapes to the overall battle and battlefield². Outlining significance provides a basis by which to examine and evaluate battle events and features (Chapters 4 & 5) for their role in the Landscapes and battlefield, and entails identifying specific importance, Landscapes' relation to the Battlefield National Historic Landmark, historic context and setting, existing conditions and integrity, and historic contextual themes.

Brandywine Battlefield, a National Historic Landmark (NHL) since 1961, is among the most precious and important treasures in our nation. As related to the southern battlefield, the NHL nomination form states: "...in mid-August, Howe moved to New York where he embarked most of his army (18,000 men) to initiate an offensive campaign to take Philadelphia, via the Chesapeake Bay. Washington countered with a southward move, where he waited first in Wilmington and then Chadds Ford for Howe's advance. By September 10, he [Washington] was in position on the eastern bank of the Brandywine, centered around Chadds Ford. ...Howe arrived in Kennett on the 10th, and on the morning of the 11th, he put his plan into action, sending a force under General Knyphausen down the Baltimore Pike towards Chadds Ford. The Hessian troops encountered sharp resistance, especially at the Kennett Meetinghouse, but pushed on... Meanwhile Howe directed Cornwallis to march twelve miles north with the rest of the army... Washington's intelligence reported this flanking movement early in the day, but this report was contradicted by a later one from Sullivan's scouts." This significance is withstanding and enhanced by the degree to which portions of the southern battlefield have remained unchanged.

Firsthand accounts provide insight about events in the southern battlefield. For example, two Crown Force accounts (reprinted here) reference battle events in the Eastern Column Landscape, about which McGuire³ states "Here the opening shots of the Battle of Brandywine were fired around 6 A.M". Gen'l Knyphausen's account informs that eastern advancing Crown Force troops under his command had barely left camp when they first came upon and skirmished with American Forces at modern Webb Barn Ln./Baltimore Pike⁴. Foundation walls from Anvil (battle-era Welch's) Tavern remain in a garden retaining wall of a later Colonial Revival house that still stands at Longwood Gardens. An anvil sits at the southeast corner wall. Sgt. Jarvis's firsthand account informs about this encounter with the Americans. Historians have noted the American Revolution was the nation's first civil war, as a family dividing confrontation between those who identified with the Patriot cause and those who identified with the Loyalist cause; Sgt. Jarvis was not alone being caught in a personal struggle, initially joining a Connecticut militia and then later switching to become a Loyalist and part of the Queen's American Rangers.

"Advancing on the Road to Chads's Ford [a mile or so from their camp] I had hardly come up to Welch's Tavern when the advanced Corps viz. Captain Ferguson's Riflemen & the Queen's Rangers fell in with about 300 Riflemen of the Enemy, who were posted in the Wood to the eastward of the Tavern."
- Crown Force Hessian Lt. Gen'l Knyphausen

"There was little to notice after this⁵ until the action at Brandywine; The Queen's Rangers led the Division of General Knyphausen. We came in sight of the enemy at sunrise. The first discharge of the enemy killed the horse of Major Grymes, who was leading the column, and wounded two men in the Division directly in my front [Ferguson's Riflemen], and in a few moments the Regiment became warmly engaged and several of our officers were badly wounded. None but the Rangers and Ferguson's Riflemen, were as yet engaged; the enemy retired, and there was a cessation for a short time, to reconnoiter the enemy, who had taken up their position in a wood which skirted the road that led down to the River."
- Crown Force Queen's Ranger Sgt. Stephen Jarvis

1 Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating, and Registering America's Historic Battlefields, National Register Bulletin #40 (National Park Service, 2000)

2 Information about battle history and recent battlefield planning efforts is in Appendix A.

3 The Philadelphia Campaign: Brandywine and the Fall of Philadelphia, Tom McGuire, Chapter 4.

4 Baltimore Pike is Rt. 1 in the southern battlefield. This plan primarily uses the former when discussing this modern roadway.

5 The reference to "after this" refers to the associated Approach Landscape.

Another firsthand account (reprinted here) references battle events in the Northern Column Landscape. Capt. Ewald's account informs that northern column Crown Forces also had barely left camp when they first came upon and skirmished with American Forces. Capt. Ewald goes on to say that skirmishing on and off continued until noon. These skirmishes are discussed in Chapter 3.

"Lord Cornwallis had sent me a guide who was a real geographical chart...I often spoke with him regarding the area which was beyond the horizon...I had hardly marched half an hour [from their encampment] when I ran into a warning post of the enemy,"
- Crown Force Hessian Capt. Johann Ewald

Specific Importance of Southern Battlefield Landscapes to the Battle

This section entails identifying specific importance of southern battlefield landscapes to the battle and the battlefield as a whole. In doing so, it summarizes Phase 2 findings, with Chapters 3 and 4 going into more detail about findings in regard to geospatial military analysis and identifying built features.

Northern Column & Eastern Column Landscapes

Phase 2 indicates Northern and Eastern Columns Landscapes represent the initial stage of Gen'l Howe's strategic tactic for the battle. Gen'l Howe divided his Crown Force army into two columns, directing one division to move east straight toward Gen'l Washington's defensive positions on the east side of Brandywine Creek, while directing the other division to move north to outflank American Forces.

Before dawn on September 11 1777, Gen'l Knyphausen's Division (Eastern Column) led by Capt. Ferguson and his company of British riflemen began an advance east from today's Kennett and East Marlborough Townships along the 1743 Great Nottingham Road (today's Baltimore Pike). Their ultimate purpose was to create the illusion that the full Crown Force Army was west of the Creek via engaging and distracting American Forces long enough Gen'l Cornwallis' Division (Northern Column) to complete its flanking march and move into position to attack American Forces on their right.

At the same time, Gen'l Cornwallis' Division (Northern Column), with Gen'l Howe and fronted by Capt. Ewald and his company of Hessian Jaegers, begin their march north from today's Kennett Square Borough, and Kennett and East Marlborough Townships to the northern battlefield⁵ to carry out the flanking maneuver that would lead to driving the Americans from the field and winning the battle later that day.

Specific importance of both Landscapes to the battlefield is fivefold.

- Lower Flank Northern Column Landscape is where Gen'l Howe chose to begin his successful outflanking of the American Army under Gen'l. Cornwallis, a tactic that ultimately secured the British win that day. This battle tactic starts in this Landscape, moving north through the Landscape into Trimble's Ford Landscape⁶ in the northern battlefield. This Landscape illustrates how Gen'ls Howe and Cornwallis' were able to successfully carry out the flanking tactic by maneuvering approximately 9,000 troops on a 9-hour circuitous march through difficult terrain that included fording both branches of Brandywine Creek.
- Eastern Column Advance Landscape is where Gen'l Howe chose to begin his diversionary feigning tactic under Gen'l. Knyphausen, to spur Gen'l Washington to deploy his army in a manner to combat what he thought was the full Crown Force army. This tactical battle staging that originates in this Landscape, heads

⁵ Northern battlefield tactical battle staging covers the completion of the outflanking as part of Phase 1 strategic landscapes study and includes: American reconnaissance (Marshallton and Trimble's Ford Strategic Landscapes), northern British tactical flanking advance (Trimble's and Jefferis' Fords Strategic Landscapes), and last leg of the flanking advance/ preparation for battle (Sconnettown/Strode's Mill Strategic Landscape). Osborne Hill Landscape is related to Strode's Mill as an area of battle staging/preparation; however, it will be discussed in earnest as part of the battle combat area in future 'Phase 3' battlefield strategic landscapes study.

⁶ See Breaching the Fords and the British Advance Strategic Landscapes Plan, part of Phase 1 strategic landscapes study.

east through the Landscape directly toward the American army. This Landscape illustrates a ‘running’ battle involving four skirmishes - Welch’s/Anvil Tavern, Hamorton village, Old Kennett Meetinghouse, and an unnamed wooded hill/fencing further east - that pushed back persistent American engagements, but not without considerable toil.

- Eastern Column Advance Landscape is the location of the Crown Force Baggage Supply Train, which supplied the army with provisions and support personnel, compulsory needs of battle and for Gen’ Howe to win the day. The Supply Train formed its own ‘column’, at first following the Eastern troop Column and then branching off and halting to a stayed position behind combat lines.
- Eastern Column Landscape is the location of what is considered to be the first skirmish of the first major engagement of the Philadelphia Campaign. Battle of Brandywine was the largest single-day land battle, and one of the two largest battles, of the Revolutionary War, and the first major engagement of the British Philadelphia Campaign of 1777 to capture the American capital.
- The Landscapes continue to display elements of 18th century Brandywine Valley landscape (including buildings and lands American and Crown Forces viewed) and retain cultural roots and identity (including local Quaker community and continuously used 18th century structures and properties).

Associated Encampment & Approach Landscapes

Phase 2 indicates Associated Encampment and Approach Landscapes represent Crown Force military strategy and staging activity that influenced the how the battle unfolded.⁷ Leaving DE to head into PA, Gen’l Howe divided his army sending Gen’l Knyphausen’s Division and the army’s supply wagons northwest on dedicated roads, while the rest of the army, under Gen’l Cornwallis, and including Gen’l Howe, went north on what was thought to be a more direct route, but actually comprised extremely difficult terrain. into a northwestern route including army supply wagons that, while circuitous, was on-road, and ultimately faster as compared to the unknowingly difficult terrain on a more direct northern march. Partway into the route, Gen’l Howe sent troops to notify Gen’l Knyphausen that the northern march was taking longer; these troops clashed with Americans scouts. The army rendezvoused at Kennett Square Village, their destination for overnight encampment the eve of battle.

Specific importance of both Landscapes to the battlefield is fourfold.

- Approach and Encampment Landscapes are where Gen’l Howe developed his military strategy for the battle. This tactical battle staging originates in this Landscape, moving north from DE through the Landscape into the Encampment Landscape. Gen’l Howe considered an encampment near Welch’s Tavern, but due to military logistics instead chose Kennett Square Village. Gen’l Washington chose for the battle to occur at Brandywine Creek, an obstacle and natural defensive position west of Philadelphia, the taking of which was Gen’l Howe’s ultimate goal under the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777. Gen’l Howe responded and devised his strategy in this Landscape. Also illustrated is the devising and use of the flanking maneuver that Gen’l Howe employs the morning of battle in Eastern and Northern Columns Landscapes.
- Approach Landscape is the location of Crown Forces first dividing into two lines, a military tactic of Gen’l Howe that he used in other conflicts. Gen’l Knyphausen’s line arrived near Kennett Square well before Gen’l Cornwallis’ line, stopping to wait for Gen’l Howe’s line to arrive in Kennett Square.
- Approach Landscape represents the first known clash after Crown Forces entered PA, where Crown Forces clashed with an American scouting patrol at New Garden Meetinghouse.
- Encampment Landscape is where the army camped in strategic positions as Divisions. The army encamped in the same Divisions in which they entered Kennett Square Village. They camped in two off-set parallel lines for defense purposes in case of American attack and to rise the next morning, the day of battle, already in a two columns line formation.
- The Landscapes continue to display elements of 18th century Brandywine Valley landscape (including buildings and lands American and Crown Forces viewed) and retain cultural roots and identity (including local Quaker community and continuously used 18th century structures and properties).

⁷ American military strategy, including that which occurred in DE leading up to the battle, will be covered in Phase 3 study.

Relationship to the NHL

The intent of the Brandywine Battlefield National Historic Landmark designation is to recognize the significance of the battle in the founding of the U.S. and in determining the course of American history. Only a small portion of the Lower Flank North Column Landscape is included in the NHL boundary as the significance of the southern battlefield to the battle was not understood when the boundary was originally delineated. The 2013 Plan and 2010 Battle of Brandywine Historic Resources Survey and Animated Map Study (2010 Study) are the first planning documents that brought forth part of the southern battlefield's importance for local planning; however still did not understand the extent or importance of the entity of the southern battlefield. Landscapes are located well west of what are considered to be 'major battle combat areas' that the NHL generally captures in its bounds, which will be the focus of Phase 3 study of strategic landscapes (Map 1-1). However, the Landscapes do contribute to the intent of the NHL for their 1) significant military and tactical roles in the battle, and 2) areas of 18th century Brandywine Valley landscape that reflect the battle story (military events and local community impacts) and the battle's contribution to American independence.



Key built feature in the Eastern Advance Strategic Landscape, Brinton House that Crown Force and American troops would have viewed and that current generations can still view today. To the front of the building remains a segment of The 1743 Great Nottingham Road roadbed.

Historic Context & Setting

Historic Overview

To set the stage for battle events and context of southern battlefield Landscapes in the larger battle, one can turn to author Tom McGuire's description: "September 11 dawned gray and dank, with fog shrouding the Brandywine Valley. Thursday was baking day... Normally a slight haze from cooking fires would have been puffing out of the large hearth chimneys and hanging in layers over the glens, but on this Thursday, the air was murky from the heavy volume of smoke collecting from hundreds of campfires. The atmosphere was tepid; this was not a pleasant, early-morning vapor, but the herald of a thick, late-summer day. The two armies were about five miles apart, each spread out over several miles, with hundreds of pickets and numerous scouting parties between them... Washington's force, generally estimated at 12,000 regulars and 3,000 militia, was encamped behind the hills of Birmingham Township on the east side of the Brandywine Creek. His center was at Chad's Ford on the Great Nottingham Road, where the creek could be crossed on foot, and at Chad's Ferry, a few hundred yards south of the ford... Five miles west of Chad's Ford, in the fields and woods around the village of Kennett Square, the Crown Forces, generally estimated at 18,000, were up in the predawn hours, preparing to move at first light.... Howe divided his army into two columns. The column heading straight for Chad's Ford was commanded by sixty-one-year-old Lt.-Gen. Baron Wilhelm Reichsfreiherr zu Inn-und Knyphausen, a dependable and able officer who had spent much of his career in the Prussian Army... As Knyphausen was pushing toward Chad's Ford, Sir William Howe and Lord Cornwallis were also well on the march, heading north with the main body of the army... The finest troops in Howe's army made up this force."⁸ Guiding them north were local Loyalists familiar with navigating the rural rolling countryside, including John Jackson, a clockmaker in East Marlborough, and Curtis Lewis, a blacksmith in West Bradford who were both under the direction of Joseph Galloway, a Pennsylvania Loyalist leader.

⁸ *The Philadelphia Campaign: Brandywine and the Fall of Philadelphia*, Tom McGuire, Chapter 4.

Landscapes Overall Historic Context & Setting

Phase 1⁹ indicates 10 fords¹⁰ along Brandywine Creek are key features to understanding the battle, and in the military sciences are known as ‘significant terrain features’. Of those fords, seven were guarded and monitored by American Forces as possible crossings by Crown Force troops, and three were unguarded. The southern battlefield setting signifies the foundation of Gen’l Howe’s strategy to successfully flank the American Army by reaching northern unguarded Trimble’s and Jefferis’ Fords under the cover of Gen’l Knyphausen’s direct eastern confrontation with Gen’l Washington’s army culminating around historic Chad’s Ford. Southern Battlefield Landscapes do not display an intact 18th-century ‘museum’ setting, but they do still retain and display areas of landforms, topography, roads, and structures that existed at the time of the battle *and* that played a pivotal role in the battle and its outcome. For Landscapes’ historic contexts, Phase 2 examines Kennett Square as ‘the heart of the southern battlefield’, the route there, formation/location of the two columns, areas of engagements, impacts on civilians and their properties, and overlapping southern battlefield landscapes bounds/histories (Chapter 3).

Lower Flank Northern Column Historic Context & Setting

2013 Plan Description

The 2013 Plan does not identify this area as a strategic landscape. It does, however, still touch upon this area’s historic context in the battle to some extent. It discusses ‘Kennett Square Staging Area’ Strategic Landscape as an area where troops organized in the early morning the day of the battle and within a few hours had moved on. It also discusses the northern flanking march in ‘Cornwallis’ March Area’ where troops left from Kennett Square and moved north to cross Brandywine Creek at two unguarded northern fords and involved skirmishing with Americans troops and impacts to civilians’ properties. The 2013 Plan recommends that the battle-era road network be further studied to determine readily passible routes available for troop movements.

Phase 1 Summary

Phase 1 strategic landscapes study incidentally looked at this adjacent area, suggesting that Crown Forces likely took a different northern route than previously thought/mapped in the 2010 Study. Phase 1 analysis, among other items, identifies locations of northern battlefield troop movements and the two unguarded northern fords¹¹, as well as identifies this area as the lower and initial stage¹² of the flank movement it recommended that a strategic landscape should be created and studied in a Phase 2 (this) project.

This Project’s Update of Previous Battle Information

Phase 2 identifies and creates a Lower Flank Northern Column Landscape that encompasses the initial stage of the Crown Force northern flanking movement. It examines and defines northern eastern routes of march, and the occurrence and locations of skirmishes (Chapter 3).

Battlefield history is fluid - events in one area impact other areas. Phase 2 finds that this Landscapes’ battle event locations partially overlaps that of the Encampment Landscape. This overlap, about 1.5-miles in length, reflects that Northern Column troops camped and then formed into marching column configuration in the same position/location. Phase 2 indicates the Northern Column Landscape begins in today’s East Marlborough and

9 See Breaching the Fords and the British Advance Strategic Landscapes Plan, part of Phase 1 strategic landscapes study.

10 From south to north – Pyle’s, Gibson’s, Chad’s, Brinton’s Jones’/Painter’s, Wistar’s, Buffington’s, Trimble’s, Jefferis’, and Taylor’s Fords. There were also other fords along the Creek. ‘Chads’ is the 18th century family name, which differs from present-day spelling of the locale ‘Chadds Ford’.

11 See Breaching the Fords and the British Advance Strategic Landscapes Plan, part of the first phase (‘Phase 1’) strategic landscapes study.

12 To facilitate understanding, analysis, and planning, the northern flanking advance is examined in three stages across two phases, which altogether encompass Gen’l Howe’s full flanking tactic. The flank began well west (left) of the American array positioned along the Creek, then traveled far enough north and then east to cross Brandywine Creek at unguarded fords. ‘Stage 1’ entails the start of the flanking march north after the Crown Force encampment the eve of battle (part of Phase 2 project). ‘Stage II’ comprises the bulk of the flanking march including traversing fords, and ‘Stage III’ entails the final stage of the flank through Scennelltown to Strode’s Mill, where the march ends to prepare for battle and the approach to Osborne Hill (Phase 1 project).

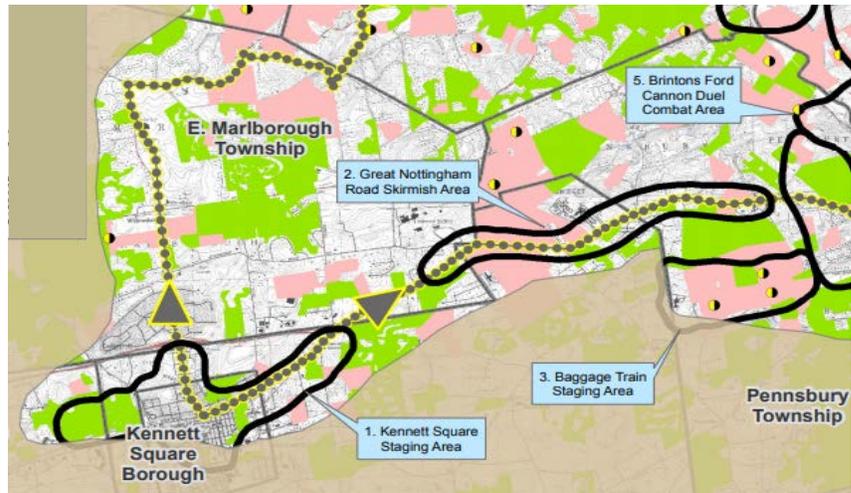
Kennett Townships, and Kennett Square Borough (part of 1777 Kennett Township), overlapping areas of Encampment Landscape (Map 1-1). It also finds that the Northern Column generally followed today’s Union St/Unionville Rd./Rt. 82, Street Rd./Rt. 926, East Doe Run Rd., and Northbrook Rd. corridors through East Marlborough Township to its northern border (with today’s Pocopson Township) where Phase 1 picks up.

Eastern Column Historic Context & Setting

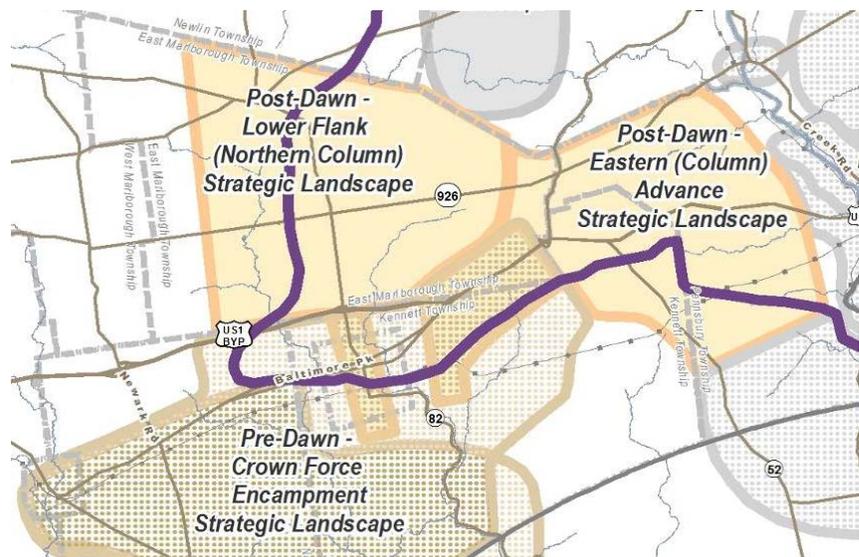
2013 Plan Description

The 2013 Plan identified this area’s historic context and setting as follows.

- ‘Kennett Square Staging Area’ is described as an area where troops organized in the early morning the day of the battle and within a few hours had moved on.
- ‘Great Nottingham Road Skirmish Area’ is described as the area where Gen’l. Knyphausen’s troops marched from Kennett Square east toward Chadds Ford, having skirmishes with Americans and impacts to civilians whose lands were crossed and damaged, and whose supplies and livestock were seized. It also references this area as ‘Knyphausen’s March Area Battle Conflict Area’.
- ‘Baggage Train Staging Area’ is described as the location of British support personnel and their parked caravan of supply wagons.



Outlines (in black) represent Strategic Landscape areas identified in the 2013 Plan. Strategic landscapes planning projects are examining these areas based on their integrity and the historic record, and revising mapped outlines as needed.



Outlines (in orange and grey) represent Strategic Landscapes areas refined and updated during this planning effort, including the identification and creation of the Lower Flank Northern Column Landscape. Orange hashed areas show overlaps between both Columns Landscapes and the Encampment Landscape.

This Project’s Update of Previous Battle Information

Phase 2 examines and refines the understanding of this area of the battlefield to combine both 2013 Plan strategic landscape areas into one larger Landscape. The resulting Eastern Column Advance Landscape includes both eastern march of Crown Force troops (‘Eastern Column’) and trailing ‘column’ of army supply provision wagons (‘Baggage Supply Train’). Phase 2 defines the eastern routes of march, baggage supply caravan route, and the occurrence and locations of skirmishes (Chapter 3).

- ‘Eastern Column’ - This column of Crown Force troops forms east of modern Kennett Square Borough marching east along today’s Baltimore Pike (1743 Great Nottingham Road) directly toward Chadds Ford/Brandywine Creek. The Eastern Column comprises the route of march east, a series of skirmishes, and what became a running battle. It is an area today still containing buildings and sites that were key strategic battle locations. This project examines and refines skirmishes/locations.

- ‘Baggage Supply Train’ - Initially, upon leaving the encampment, this supply train trailed behind the Eastern troop Column; however Phase 2 finds the train separated from the Eastern Column and shifted south partway through the Landscape and for this reason as well as its distinct history it is considered a subarea. The Baggage Supply Train comprises numerous military support personnel and wagons of supplies to equip the Crown Force Army with as many provisions as could feasibility be hauled. This project examines and refines supply caravan/locations.

Phase 2 also refines this Landscape’s history as a tactical feign and battle conflict area where Gen’l. Howe directed a smaller number of his Crown Force troops under the command of Hessian Gen’l. Knyphausen to begin a march due east directly toward 1777 Chads’ Ford in order to ruse Gen’l. Washington into thinking his American Army was facing the full Crown Force Army assault.

As with the Northern Column Landscape, the history of this Landscape partly overlaps that of the Encampment Landscape (Map 1-1). This is because Phase 2 finds that, like North Column troops. Eastern Column troops formed into marching column configuration in the same position/location as where they encamped. For purposes of statement of significance and military history examination as well as local resources protection and interpretation, this overlap is treated in the same manner in the Northern Column Landscape. The Eastern Column Landscape begins just east of today’s Kennett Square Borough where the column formed and overlaps the Encampment Landscape for about 1.5-mile. The Eastern Column Landscape generally follows Baltimore Pike east through Kennett and Pennsbury Townships. The Eastern Column Landscape ends near today’s Brinton’s Bridge Rd. where future Phase 3 study will pick up.

Associated Encampment & Approach Landscapes Context & Setting

2013 Plan Description

The 2013 Plan identified this area’s historic context and setting as follows.

- ‘Kennett Square Staging Area’ is described as a British staging area where British troops and camp followers established camp on September 10, the night before the battle. As part of this action, the 2013 Plan indicates there were military conflicts with civilians whose properties were converted into officers’ headquarters, and privately-owned open fields became military encampments.
- The 2013 Plan did not identify the Approach area as a part of the Battlefield.

This Project’s Update of Previous Battle Information

Phase 2 identifies and creates a new Crown Forces Approach Landscape that encompasses military activities in DE leading to the march into PA, as well as the encampment around Kennett Square. Phase 2 also renames and refines the Encampment Landscape, expanding its area and acknowledging the overlap in history and locations with Eastern Column and Approach Landscape. The Encampment Landscape is the keystone of the southern battlefield, tying together southern battlefield history as the start of military events on the day of battle and as the culmination of military activity leading up to the battle (Chapter 3). While both associated Landscapes overlap considerably in location and history, for plan purposes their discussion is broken out as follows.

- ‘Approach’ - Crown Force troops conducted a military strategy “dance’ with Gen’l Washington and the American Army who were within nearby proximity in northern DE. Gen’l Washington made a move northeast towards Chadds Ford¹³ and Gen’l Howe strategized to move Crown Forces north into PA. Phase 2 identifies military Crown Forces routes of approach into and within Chester County. Approach areas were previously unknown for local planning purposes, and Phase 2 brings to light this area and history as an important related component of the battlefield and for local planning purposes, including northern DE locations as being associated with the Battle of Brandywine. Phase 2 also identified this Landscape as the location of a new field of fire with a clash between Crown Forces American and scouts along today’s Newark

¹³ American movement into Chadds Ford will be addressed in Phase 3.

Rd., well as the location of impacts on local civilian population through property plunderings as witnessed through recorded civilian claims (Chapter 4).

- **‘Encampment’** – Phase 2 plan identifies the extent of the Crown Force encampment locations, clarifying formerly accepted information. In doing this, this plan expands the area of and renamed the Landscape to more appropriately reflect battle activities. Phase 2 also finds that Gen’l Howe used a version of his flanking strategy on the way into PA, diving his army into a northwestern-eastern flank and a northern movement. Gen’l Knyphausen’s flank line, including the supply train, traveling along established 18th-century roads, arrived at Kennett Square before Gen’l Howe’s line, Gen’l Knyphausen’s line stopped and waited for Gen’l Howe’s line to traverse more difficult terrain into Kennett Square. Upon arrival and then overnight encampment in the Kennett Square area, the two columns had already been formed, camping in two defensive parallel north-south lines ready to stand into formation that early morning of battle.

Existing Conditions & Integrity

Landscapes Overall Existing Conditions & Integrity

While the Landscapes’ setting seems fairly developed when taken as a whole and compared to other areas of the battlefield, such as Northern Landscapes, they still contain pockets of rural lands with historic buildings that continue to convey a readable battle-era setting. In developed areas, they still embrace preserved battle-era buildings, which have been continually reused and evolved for new contemporaneous uses. Landscapes have most of their 18th century roads intact and still well in use today.



The well preserved Old Kennett Meeting sits along the road as it did in 1777 when Crown Force troops passed and skirmished with American forces the day of the battle.

Kennett Square Borough was redeveloped in the 19th century so no battle-era structures remain, although the 18th century roadway configuration that troops utilized still remains. The military significance of the Landscapes and their preserved period properties, including lands and building resources, helps compensate for this as well as other losses of battle-era setting due to more recent development. For example, areas of still evident battlefield setting allow document research to be ground-truthed, resolving a number of questions that Phase 2, in part, was created to address. Landscapes exhibit characteristics, such as areas of historic and current farmlands, which make them well-suited for targeted land conservation efforts through agricultural land and open space preservation. They also display characteristics that make them suitable for historic resources protection and for focused battle interpretive efforts.

Northern Column Existing Conditions & Integrity

2013 Plan Description

In examination of existing conditions and integrity, the 2013 Plan does not call out this area as a strategic landscape as it suggests the Crown Force route and battle-related historic resources and lands in this area are too compromised by development.

Phase 1 Project

Phase 1 study, that occurred adjacent to this Landscape, superficially looked at this area suggesting that Crown Forces likely took a different northern route than previously thought, and a route that traversed in part through a still readable battlefield landscape today.

This Project's Update

Phase 2 opens pockets of Northern Column Landscape that still convey battle-era setting and battle-related features important for interpretation, land conservation, and historic resource recommendations. The Northern Column route today remains evident and remarkably intact, particularly from East Doe Run Rd. to Northbrook/Red Lion Rds. Areas along these roads retain integrity of location and setting and are evocative of the historically rural character of the battlefield. The marching route leads to the well-preserved approach route to Phase 1 Trimble's Ford Strategic Landscape and the ford itself and resolves a number of military strategy questions about the northern marching route taken by Crown Force troops under Gen'ls Howe and Cornwallis. Where East Doe Run Rd. meets Northbrook/Red Lion Rds. (1728 Road to the Great Valley), the setting becomes more rural with several important historic properties on the route and that are still owned by the Wickersham family as they were in 1777. At the time of the American Revolution, East Marlborough Township was almost entirely Quaker held and the war effort found little support in this area.

Eastern Column Existing Conditions & Integrity

2013 Plan Description

The 2013 Plan identified this area's existing conditions and integrity as follows.

- 'Kennett Square Staging Area' is discussed below under Associated Approach and Encampment Landscapes.
- 'Great Nottingham Road Skirmish Area' is described as an area having potential for historic resource preservation and interpretation, but low potential for additional land conservation due to development. It also suggests future study of opportunities for developing interpretation at skirmish locations along this corridor, particularly as the corridor already contains visitor amenities and destinations, such as Longwood Gardens, a major tourist attraction, and restaurants and shopping.
- 'Baggage Train Staging Area' is described as an area having potential for historic resource preservation and interpretation and high potential for additional land conservation as an area crossed by troops and retaining a readable battle-era landscape. The 2013 Plan suggests future study of opportunities for land conservation and for opportunities for interpretation via a driving or bicycling tour as the area retains its battle-era rural, open, and/or agricultural land uses.

This Project's Update

In examining existing conditions in light of refined historical and geospatial understanding of this part of the battlefield, the following can be surmised.

- 'Eastern Column' - Though the Eastern Column's route today retains minimal integrity within the physical Baltimore Pike road corridor due to road widenings and improvements, four skirmishes occurred in the Landscape – Welch's/Anvil Tavern, Hamorton village, Old Kennett Meetinghouse, an unnamed hill east of the Meetinghouse – and their locations are still apparent in today's Landscape. While today's Baltimore Pike (1743 Great Nottingham Road) going east toward Brandywine Creek has been significantly widened, straightened (the 1743 Road would have been serpentine and meandering through the undulating terrain), and the roadbed many times replaced, today's roadway follows the same general course as the 1743 Road and passes by preserved battle-era historic structures that are associated with the battle. No doubt, this is a suburbanized landscape, but still contains building gems such as the preserved Abraham Taylor farmhouse at Miller's Hill (that was plundered), remains of the Welch's Tavern (where the first shots of the battle took place), and the preserved Old Kennett Meetinghouse (where some of the first skirmishes of the battle occurred). What is remarkable about this setting is that skirmishes between the advancing Crown Force troops under Gen'l Knyphausen and the American Light Infantry under Brig. Gen'l Maxwell can still be clearly traced in the landscape in relationship to the nearby battle-era buildings. While the existing historic structures are dispersed along this busy modern corridor, they have strategic battle meaning and/or importance, such as Old Kennett Meetinghouse that is also a major potential interpretative site.
- 'Baggage Supply Train' - The area of the army's parked provision caravan in the easternmost part of the Landscape retains intact integrity, including a readable battle-era landscape as would have been seen by the passing troops. Given its proximity to the greater New Castle County economic center, this area has

experienced some interspersed residential redevelopment, though largely retains its rural and agricultural roots and is a prime setting for historic preservation and land conservation. This area falls adjacent to a major battle fighting area further to the east in Pennsbury Township and Chadds Ford Township, which will be the subject of a future Phase 3 effort; thus rendering this part of the Eastern Advance Landscape as a buffer area between battle staging and skirmishes and battle fighting for local planning purposes. During the height of battle action, both support personnel and their caravan of supply wagons were parked out of the way of direct conflict in an area that is today still largely undeveloped with open fields having agricultural uses as they would have at the time of the battle.

Though no doubt the overall Landscape has undergone significant change since the time of the battle, namely commercial and residential development, historic structures and properties are still evident. Historic structures have been adaptively reused and a number of newer developments have been set back from the road, which preserves an open setting. Several newer structures are built on the historic foundations of their predecessors and have compatible size, shape, and materials as their historic counterparts. A pattern of farmsteads, fields, and rolling country delineated by hedgerows and small tree groves buffer roadways, which helps to retain the visual history and setting of the Landscape. Property owners in the area generally value historic resources and actively work to maintain their viability and integrity. Active local historical commissions in Kennett, East Marlborough, and Pennsbury Townships promote continued viability and preservation of historic resources and settings.

Associated Encampment & Approach Landscapes Existing Conditions & Integrity

2013 Plan Description

The 2013 Plan identified this area's existing conditions and integrity as follows.

- The 2013 Plan did not identify the Approach area as a part of the Battlefield.
- 'Kennett Square Staging Area' is described as having its historic integrity altered by development, but an area that should still be examined as a center for heritage interpretation due to area amenities, Borough sidewalk grid providing access to former battle sites including former Unicorn Tavern used for British headquarters, as well as population, visitor, and traffic concentration.

This Project's Update

In examining existing conditions and integrity in light of refined historical and geospatial understanding of this part of the battlefield, the following can be surmised.

- 'Approach' – This project shows the Crown Force Approach area, as a new Strategic Landscape, contains historic settings and battle-era resources. Information addressed in this project, such as the now rediscovered and identified Crown Force route into PA, opens up additional areas associated with the battlefield, which convey areas of visible battle-era setting and battle-related features for land conservation and historic resource recommendation purposes. The Crown Force marching route is largely intact and traceable in today's setting on modern, once battle-era, roads and retains areas of integrity, particularly along Gen'l Howe's northern route in PA. Rural landscapes remain that depict a battle-era setting.
- 'Encampment' - Phase 2 reveals the Encampment Landscape, with its more expansive geography and clarified history, contains some pockets of historic integrity including historic structures and roads to the east and south (where the Landscape overlaps with the Approach Landscape) of today's Kennett Square Borough. Marching routes within the encampment area and lines of camp (today's Union St. and McFarland Rd./Schoolhouse Ln.) remain as traceable in today's setting on modern, once battle-era, roads. Historic archeological sites, such as the site of the important battle-era Unicorn Tavern that once stood at the intersection of modern Union St. and State St./Baltimore Pike, can be identified for interpretive and contextual location purposes.

Though no doubt the Landscapes have experienced change since the time of the battle, historic structures and properties are still evident, as are battle-era road beds and alignments. Even in modern Kennett Square Borough, which does not contain any known remaining battle-era buildings, the modern State St./Union St. intersection

remains as the main crossroads as it was in Kennett Square village in 1777. Property owners generally value historic resources and actively work to maintain their viability and integrity, including their continued use or adaptive reuse. A number of newer developments are set back from roads, which preserves an open setting. A pattern of farmsteads, fields, and rolling country delineated by hedgerows helps to retain the visual history and setting. Active historical commissions in Kennett and New Garden Townships and the Historical Architectural Review Board and non-profit Historic Kennett Square in Kennett Square Borough promote continued viability and preservation of the area and build on historic resources and landscapes as a foundation in their efforts.

Historic Contextual Themes

Battle of Brandywine

The analysis and significance of the Landscapes to the battle speaks to several overarching battlefield themes that are broadly categorized as ‘military events’, ‘18th century landscape’, and ‘local community’. Themes are vetted in Chapter 6, and a summary is included here for statement of battlefield significance purposes. Under (one or more) of those broad thematic categories fall specific themes for this plan:

- Crown Force army logistics
- Gen’l Howe’s two columns military tactic
- American military activity and reconnaissance
- Battle skirmishes
- Brandywine Valley settlement patterns
- Civilians/local community and battle impacts
- Quaker roots and Peace Testimony
- Still readable battlefield landscape areas

Chester County

Landscapes’ history also mirrors major themes in Chester County’s overall history including multi-generational rural agricultural tradition, Brandywine Valley Quaker settlement, enduring historic landscapes, prosperous commerce/industry foundations, and the American Revolution. Such themes are imbedded in throughout this plan and serve as a broad basis for heritage interpretation.

American Revolution

Themes for the battle, and this plan as applicable, relate to and through phased strategic landscapes planning are being coordinated in broad terms with Museum of the American Revolution’s (MAR)¹⁴ Revolutionary War interpretative themes. For this plan, MAR’s major themes can be summarized as: ‘Citizens turned Revolutionaries’, ‘Surviving the Darkest Hours’, ‘Radical Nature of Revolution’, and ‘Lasting Meanings’.

As the southern battlefield landscapes are just one part of the larger Philadelphia Campaign and much larger Revolutionary War, and embody a unique cultural background as part of the Brandywine Valley’s largely rural agrarian Quaker roots, not all MAR themes speak directly to the Landscapes. In general terms for these Landscapes, this plan’s themes of American military activity and citizen involvement could fall under the MAR theme of ‘Citizens turned Revolutionaries’; Battle impacts on civilians/the community could fall under ‘Radical Nature of the Revolution’; Battle skirmishes and Crown Force military logistics and tactics under ‘Surviving the Darkest Hours’; and still readable battlefield landscape areas, Brandywine Valley settlement patterns and Quaker roots/Peace Testimony could fall under ‘Lasting Meanings’. The overarching theme for the entire Brandywine Battlefield as a pivotal moment in the American Revolution, discussed in the 2013 Plan speaks to all MAR’s themes.

¹⁴ MAR is the national Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia, which is coordinating their efforts to interpret the battle with Brandywine Battlefield Task Force.