



Battle History, Significance & Recent Planning

This appendix provides a historic overview of the battle and time sequence for the southern Brandywine Battlefield where Crown Force tactical maneuvers and battle skirmishes with American troops occurred prior to and the day of battle, September 11, 1777. The southern battlefield consists of strategic landscapes related to Crown Force activities of Lower Flank Northern Column and Eastern Column Advance, and the associated Crown Force Approach and Encampment. The Lower Flank of the Northern Column ends where the Phase 1 northern battlefield strategic landscapes project picks up at the border of today's East Marlborough and Pocopson Townships. The Eastern Column Landscape ends at the eastern battlefield (to be examined in a Phase 3 project) where it is estimated that battle combat action begins. This historic overview has been adapted from 2013 Plan information using strategic landscapes projects' information. This appendix also provides an overview of recent battlefield planning projects.

Historical Overview of the Battle

The late summer of 1777 in the upper Delmarva Peninsula witnessed the start of the military campaign that resulted in the capture of Philadelphia by Crown Forces (25 September 1777). Two years of warfare had preceded the Philadelphia Campaign, with much of the principal military action on land occurring in New England, New York and New Jersey. Crown Forces setbacks occurred in December 1776 (First Battle of Trenton) and in early January 1777 (Battle of Princeton). These reversals resulted in the Crown Forces wintering in New York City and in the vicinity of New Brunswick and Perth Amboy, New Jersey, and American Forces taking up winter quarters around Morristown, New Jersey.

The inability of Gen'l Sir William Howe to force a decisive battle or outmaneuver Gen'l George Washington in New Jersey during May and June 1777 led to the movement by sea of the balance of Crown Forces from Staten Island to Elk Neck in Maryland. Numbering approximately 15,000 men, the Crown Forces were transported by the British fleet up the Chesapeake Bay and landed at the Head of Elk on 25 August. Their intent was to advance overland to capture Philadelphia, the fledgling capital of the United States (Black 1998:124).

In a series of hard-fought engagements, American and Crown forces battled each other across the landscape and on the waters of Northeastern Maryland and the Lower Delaware Valley. In a series of engagements – Cooch's Bridge (3 September), Brandywine (11 September), Battle of the Clouds (16 September), and Paoli (20-21 September) – Crown Forces maneuvered and fought their way to the colonial capital of Philadelphia, which was taken on 25 September (McGuire 2006). By far the largest of these engagements – both in terms of land area covered and numbers of troops actively involved – was the Battle of Brandywine.

The terrain between Head of Elk in Maryland and the Schuylkill and Delaware River valleys over which the two armies maneuvered in the late summer and early fall of 1777 was markedly different from the ground in central New Jersey where fighting had occurred in the early summer campaigning. There, as Gen'l Howe's army attempted to maneuver towards the rebel nation's capital of Philadelphia, Gen'l Washington's army had significantly higher ground – the Watchung Mountains – to their rear, into which they could retire if forced to, and out of which Gen'l Washington could launch forays upon the rear and right flank of Crown Forces. In southeastern Pennsylvania and the adjacent counties of New Castle and Cecil, the rolling hills of the Piedmont

were cut by generally northwest-to-southeast-flowing streams such as the Christina River, White and Red Clay Creeks, and Brandywine Creek. Gen'l Washington was able to use these drainages to his advantage, establishing a principal defensive line along the Red Clay Creek, and a secondary line closer to Wilmington along the lower reaches of the Brandywine Creek. Gen'l Howe avoided these defensive positions by continuously maneuvering to his left, or west, thus outflanking the American positions (he did this along Red Clay Creek on 8 September, Brandywine Creek on 11 September, and in the forcing of the Schuylkill River fords on 22 September). Unlike American positions in New Jersey, Gen'l Washington had no natural anchor for his right, or west flank, thus making it difficult to defend against Gen'l Howe's maneuver (Taaffe 2003:63-64).

Gen'l Washington's position along East Branch Brandywine Creek clearly blocked the direct route of the Crown Force advance towards Philadelphia (today's Rt. 1 corridor), and, because of the broad valley and steep hills along the east side of the Creek, it was a strong post for his army. The Creek presented a major geographic obstacle for Gen'l Howe's army. In addition, the Americans enhanced this barrier by building temporary earthworks and preparing defensive positions along the Creek. While the Creek position provided a great opportunity for Gen'l Washington to offer battle, the principal drawback about Gen'l Washington's defensive line was that the Creek had multiple crossing points over which the Crown Forces could advance; too many crossing points to adequately defend, particularly on the West Branch of the Brandywine.

On September 11, 1777, Gen'l Howe's army launched a two-pronged attack on the American position along Brandywine Creek. One column commanded by Hessian Gen'l. Knyphausen departed Kennett Square along the Great Nottingham Road (current Rt. 1), and attacked Gen'l Washington's troops stationed at Chad's (18th century spelling) Ford. A second column, commanded by Gen'l Howe and Lord Charles Cornwallis, followed a more circuitous route, travelling north from Kennett Square, crossing Brandywine Creek first at Trimble's Ford¹ and then turning east and crossing the Creek again at Jefferis' Ford (the site of today's Jefferis' Ford Bridge). The column arrived at an area near Birmingham Rd in East Bradford and Birmingham Townships, and from there attacked Gen'l Washington's northern flank from its right rear. American formations responded to this maneuver by forming a series of defensive lines, but were out-maneuvered. The final action of the day occurred along the Old Wilmington Road south of Dilworthtown when Maj. Gen'l Nathanael Greene positioned his brigade and the remnants of other American formations in a semi-circular line that was able to blunt the Crown Forces' advance. As evening approached and daylight waned, Gen'l Washington's Army retreated east along modern Rt. 1. His forces reformed near the City of Chester in what is now Delaware County, PA.

Time Sequence of Battle Events

Several assumptions in the 2013 Plan about southern battlefield military-related battle events on September 11 1777 are examined for this project. The following time sequence of battle-events for the southern battlefield is from the 2013 Plan, and time sequence/history assumptions studied in this project are shown in *italics* below.

Before 5AM: Crown Forces camp overnight near Kennett Square. Gen'l Cornwallis's troops (7,000 men) line up along Unionville Rd from Kennett Square to Doe Run Rd. In front are Ewald's Rangers (called Jaegers, Germans) followed by the British Light Infantry Brigade, British Grenadiers, Hessian Rangers (Germans), Hessian Grenadier Brigade (Germans), British Guard Brigade, British 3rd Brigade, and British 4th Brigade. Gen'l Knyphausen's troops (5,000 men) line up along State St through Kennett Square from Cedar Spring Rd to School House Ln. In front are Ferguson's Rifles and the Queen's Rangers, followed by the British 1st Brigade, Grant's 2nd Brigade, Stirn's Hessian Brigade, British Cannons, and British 71st Regiment.

¹ Trimble's Ford is accessible today via open fields and farm paths on private property, or canoeing or kayaking on the west branch Brandywine Creek.

5AM to 6:45AM: In the early morning the day of battle, two columns of troops form – a northern flanking column (studied in this project and Phase 1 strategic battlefield planning) and an eastern column (studied in this project along with the Crown Forces' encampment and approach).

Gen'l Cornwallis's Division forms into a northern flanking column, then moves from Kennett Square *along Unionville Rd, then east along Marlboro Rd*. As ordered by Gen'l. Washington, Maj. Spear leaves Martin's Tavern to scout for British formations, and before sunrise rides south to Welch's Tavern (later called Anvil Tavern) near present-day Rt. 1 and Longwood Rd (at Longwood Gardens) [where an Continental light infantry company is situated]. Spear sees no British troops [along his route].

Hessian Gen'l. Knyphausen's troops form an eastern column, then move toward Chadds Ford along the Great Nottingham Road (approximately modern Rt. 1). *At the front of the column are Ferguson's Rifles (90 loyalists) and the Queen's Rangers (Capt. Wemys' 40th Regiment, 300 loyalists)*.

6AM: Near the intersection of Rt. 1 and Lenape Rd, Ferguson's Rifles and the Queen's Rangers engage in fire with a company of American troops under Lt. Col. Maxwell who withdraw east and join the rest of Maxwell's troops.

6:30AM: Fire is again exchanged near the Anvil Tavern at Rt. 1 and Kennett Pike, after which Maxwell's Troops withdraw to a location along Rt. 1 near Hickory Rd.

7AM: Ferguson's Rifles and the Queen's Rangers exchange fire with Maxwell's Troops who take cover behind the western wall of the Old Kennett Meetinghouse. Maxwell's Troops withdraw to the east along Rt. 1.

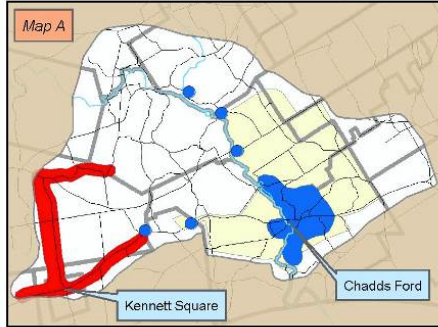
7:15AM: At Rt. 1 and Hickory Hill Rd, Ferguson's Rifles and the Queen's Rangers again exchange fire with Maxwell's Troops. They skirmish along Rt. 1 near Chandler Rd.

Battle Action Summary

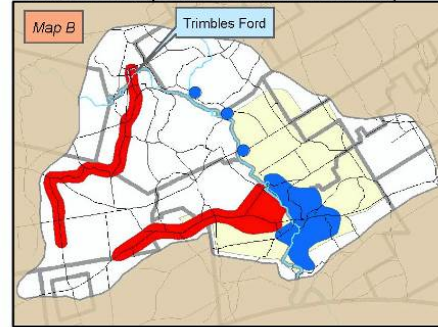
The Battle of Brandywine was a complicated, multi-phase event involving nearly 30,000 troops and lasting from sunup to sundown on September 11, 1777. Map 1.11 from the 2013 Plan (below)¹ provides a snapshot of what was a complex battle. Around 5 a.m. the morning of the battle, British Gen'l Howe's army launched a two-prong attack on the American position along Brandywine Creek. One column departed Kennett Square along the Great Nottingham Road and attacked American troops at Chadds Ford, as Gen'l Washington had expected (Map 1.11-A, B). A second Crown Force column followed a more circuitous route, travelling north from Kennett Square and then east, crossing the Creek further north than the Americans expected, first at Trimble's Ford and then again at Jefferis' Ford, arriving at Strode's Mill/Osborne Hill (Map 1.11-A, B, C, D, E) where they regrouped. From there the Crown Forces attacked to the south, confronting Gen'l Washington's late planned northern troop defense line and out-manuevering American Forces from the side (Map 1.11-E, F). American Forces were pushed further south where they regrouped near the village of Dilworthtown to organize a last defensive stand (Map 1.11-G, H), using non-traditional 'guerrilla warfare', the first of many times Gen'l Washington would employ the tactic during the war. While the sun was fading in the evening, Maj. Gen'l Greene positioned his brigade and the remnants of other American formations in a semi-circular line that was able to hold off and blunt the Crown Forces' advance. This allowed American Forces to retreat east, reforming near the City of Chester.

¹ Crown Forces are shown in red, American Forces in blue, 2010 Study battlefield boundaries in white and 1992 NHL planning boundaries in off-white.

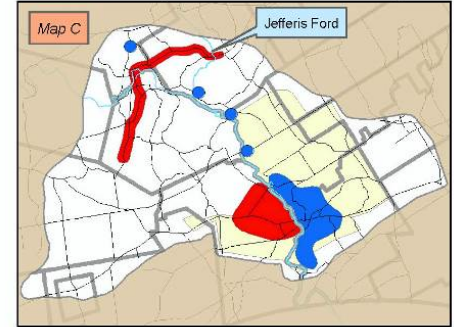
5:00 to 6:45 AM (British Begin to March)



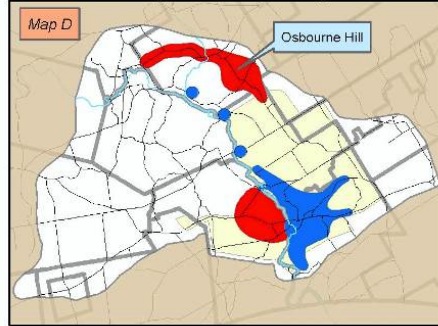
7:00 to 9:15 AM (British Cross Trimbles Ford)



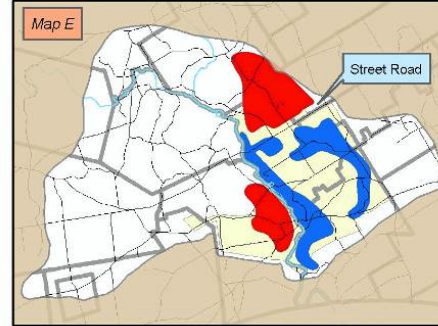
9:30 to 11:45 AM (British Cross Jefferis Ford)



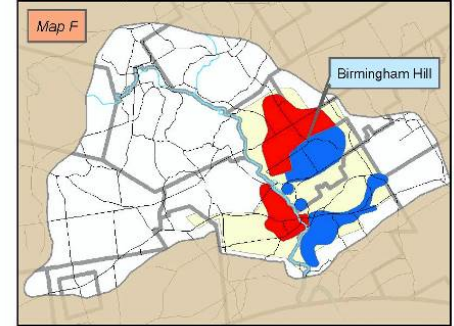
Noon to 2:15 PM (British Form Lines)



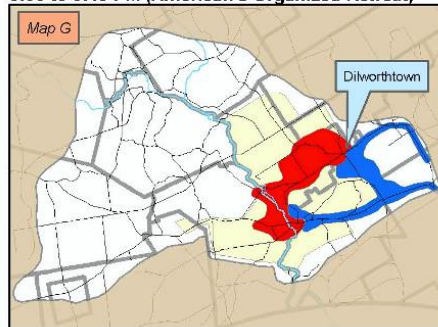
2:30 to 4:45 PM (British Attack)



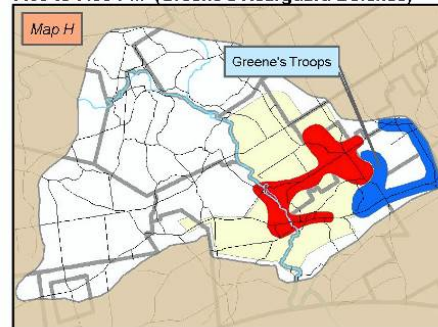
5:00 to 5:45 (British Advance)



6:00 to 6:45 PM (American's Organized Retreat)



7:00 to 7:30 PM (Greene's Rearguard Defense)



Brandywine Battlefield
Chester & Delaware Counties, PA

Battlefield Preservation Plan

EPC

1.5 0.75 0 1.5 3 Miles
1 Inch = 3 Miles (1:190,080)

Map 1.11
Battle of Brandywine: British and American Areas of Control

Battlefield Significance

Brandywine was a defining battle of the American Revolution and specifically the British Campaign in 1777 to overtake and occupy Philadelphia, the colonial capital. The battle was significant as it involved the highest ranked officers of both the American Army and British Army, Gen'l Washington and Gen'l Howe. Although the Americans were unsuccessful in preventing British occupation of Philadelphia, the battle demonstrated the American Army had the ability to slow and withstand a direct engagement with the most organized and powerful army in the world at the time, and still rally to fight again. The battle did not result in Gen'l Washington's capture by the British nor the destruction of his army. Together, the Brandywine and Saratoga battles signify the turning point of the war in favor of the Americans, sparking the interest in allegiance from France for the American cause.

Brandywine represents one of the earliest and largest battles of the American Revolution in terms of the number of troops engaged in active combat and total battlefield land area involved (including troop movement, camp, skirmish, and combat sites). It extends through 15 municipalities in two counties, covering approximately 35,000 acres of land. As found through this project, associated elements of the battle occurred in southern Chester County and northern Delaware in the days before the battle; these elements set the stage for battle events and locations, thus making the battlefield extent even larger in size. As a testament to its importance, the battlefield is

a National Historic Landmark¹, the highest level of historic resource designation in the nation. The battlefield's importance as a local, state, and national resource is additionally recognized as: a 'Significant Historic Landscape' in Chester County's *Landscapes*³; the first designated 'Pennsylvania Commonwealth Treasure'; and a National Park Service 'Class A, Preservation Priority 1' Revolutionary War battlefield. Due to its significance and relative integrity, the battlefield is still used today for training soldiers in KOCOA military analysis (see below) and reading a battlefield landscape.

The 2013 Plan developed a 'Statement of Significance' for the battlefield that provides a summary explanation of reasons the battle is important, centering around three primary themes: 1) military events; 2) local (mostly Quaker) community and the battle's impact; and 3) the battle's role in the American Revolution, including the British capture of Philadelphia and diplomatic negotiations with the French. The 'Statement' guides historic resource identification and interpretation opportunities. Built features are examined as to whether they represent and contribute to the battlefield based on the extent to which they are associated with the themes.

Statement of Significance for the Brandywine Battlefield
(from Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan, 2013)

The Brandywine Battlefield highlights one of the United States' most significant historical events when on September 11, 1777, General Howe and his well-armed professional army engaged the citizen soldiers led by General Washington for a day long battle along the banks of the Brandywine Creek. Although it was a loss for the Americans, it proved that they had the talent and resiliency to fight a long and difficult war. It demonstrated to the Americans that they would never win by fighting a conventional "European" war, forcing them to adopt an alternative defensive strategy that Washington dubbed the "War of Posts." Lastly, it convinced the French that Washington's newly formed rebel troops were reliable enough that they deserved assistance from the French Navy, and all the troops and munitions it could deliver.

When the two large armies, which together totaled 30,000 soldiers, marched into the Brandywine Valley, they instantly changed the character of what had been a quiet homogeneous farming community of some 350 residents, most of whom were Quakers. Since the Quaker faith forbade participation in war, even in a just war, the Brandywine Valley Quakers refused to take sides. Therefore, what essentially took place that day was an invasion of "Quaker country" by two outside armies, one British and one non-Quaker Americans. Local Quaker property was damaged or seized by both armies. And although the Quaker community did not cooperate with either side during the active combat, they spontaneously organized to provide medical care to the wounded immediately after the battle, even turning their meetinghouses into hospitals.

A Living Cultural Landscape

Brandywine Battlefield is a one-of-a-kind cultural landscape that possesses a special authenticity among remaining battlefields on American soil. This uniqueness provides a foundation and catalyst for successful planning, interpretation, and protection of resources, landscapes, and open spaces, and is vital to preserving Chester County heritage, quality of life, and sense of place, as well as promoting education, outreach, and heritage tourism, as appropriate. The battlefield is distinctive in retaining a visible 1777 landscape, including cultural aspects, historic structures, views, natural features, and open rural lands that document and commemorate the history of the nation, state, region, and local communities.

Cultural aspects of the 1777 landscape endure, most notably the local Quaker community who bring a cultural continuity to the landscape. Quakers lived in the battlefield well before and during the battle, and still live there today. Descendants of Quaker families who experienced the battle are present-day residents, some of whom still

¹ The National Historic Landmark designated in 1961 recognized the existence and importance of the battle to the course of the American Revolution. The boundary was later delineated to include the battlefield known at the time and includes areas where the fiercest battle action occurred. Numerous subsequent studies, each with additional found historical information, led to an increasingly better understanding of battle events and their locations, which extend well afield from the original boundary. The 2010 Study and the following 2013 Plan provide a compilation of 'best known' information to date and show the breadth of the battlefield as accepted by the ABPP. That information is supplemented with the undertaking of Battlefield Strategic Landscapes Plans, such as this plan, as also accepted by the ABPP.

reside in their family battle-era homes. The same meetinghouses used for worship before the battle, and as make-shift field hospitals for the injured of both armies during and after the battle, continue in use for worship today.

Buildings, structures, and lands of the era also endure. Nearly half of the battlefield's approximately 35,000 acres remain open and undeveloped, and some tracts still have similar property lines as in the 18th century. Intact colonial-era structures, natural features and landforms, rural tracts and farms, roadways, and other physical elements endure and reflect the critical role that Chester and Delaware counties played in the founding of the nation. Colonial-era enclaves, such as Marshallton and Dilworthtown villages, remain as thriving small communities with associated surrounding rural lands that remain in agricultural, equestrian, low density housing, conserved land, and open land uses.

Historic natural features and landforms still characterize this cultural landscape, including challenging, sloped terrain. Obstacles, such as Brandywine Creek and its associated floodplains and wetlands, are referenced in accounts by British and American troops who had to cross or avoid them.

The battlefield is distinct in that it is a living cultural landscape where people live and work today in continuously-used, well-preserved battle-era structures and lands. Many have been sensitively updated or repurposed to meet modern needs, while still displaying battle-era character. Local, county, state, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, residents, and businesses, along with or as members of Brandywine Battlefield Task Force (BBTF)¹, work to provide outreach, education, interpretation, preservation, and planning for the protection of this highly important national resource. The battlefield is not a museum collection of resources, and planning efforts recognize its continuation as a vital, working landscape that encompasses structures, features, and open spaces that speak to the 1777 landscape. Efforts to preserve and interpret the battlefield should not attempt to duplicate an outdoor undeveloped 'museum', such as Valley Forge National Military Park or Gettysburg National Historic Park. Rather, the battlefield is a living cultural landscape where the local community has an active role as its caretaker and steward as the battlefield is quite literally *their own back yards*.

Recent Planning Efforts

Battlefield planning, preservation efforts, and studies have occurred in the battlefield for decades, at least since the 1961 NHL designation. Recent ABPP-funded projects of the 2010 Study and 2013 Plan extended the previously assumed battlefield boundaries and provide the most holistic set of overall battlefield planning documents. The 2010 Study mapped the newly understood full battlefield for the first time, and in doing so, found that the battlefield was much larger than previously mapped, including northern and southern areas. The 2013 Plan is a follow-up to and recommendation of the 2010 Study. Phase 1 indicated the northern battlefield strategic landscapes to be more expansive than previously known. This project finds the southern battlefield to be more expansive in physical size and battle activity than previously understood, and, as such, the physical extent of the battlefield is also larger, including battle day areas (Lower Flank Northern and Eastern Advance Columns Strategic Landscapes) and associated areas in the days prior (Crown Force Approach and Encampment Strategic Landscapes).

2010 Battlefield Study & Animated Map

Undertaken by Chester County staff, the 2010 Study inventoried historic resources, examined battle logistics, defined battlefield boundaries, mapped and animated troop movements and battle action, and provided an educational DVD about the battle.

¹ Formed in 1993, Brandywine Battlefield Task Force is a volunteer group of concerned organizations (including municipal, state, and federal representatives, as well as non-profit institutions) interested in working collaboratively to preserve and protect the Battlefield, its history, and its resources through raising awareness about the importance of the battle to American history, coordinating public-private partnerships, and promoting battle interpretation.

Inventorying historic resources and lands – Chester County staff worked with municipal historic commission volunteers to complete a preliminary inventory of historic resources (battle-era and non-battle era). The results are individual municipal Historic Resource Atlases (of all identified historic resources) and a Battle of Brandywine Historic Resource Atlas (of only battle-era identified historic resources). It is the first time historic resources were identified on such a widespread scale in the battlefield.

Examining battle logistics using KOCO A analysis – ABPP guidelines require battlefields be examined using KOCO A¹, a U.S. Armed Forces battlefield analytical technique. KOCO A is used to understand and map the physical extent of a battlefield, locations of battle elements (events and features), and how unique physical geography, cultural topography/settlement patterns, and communication routes affect military strategy. KOCO A examines land, natural, and built features to identify defining features, which are those features referenced in battle accounts, historic maps, or other sources that help locate battle events in the modern landscape. Figure A-1 shows defining feature examples and their KOCO A battlefield element category.

Figure A-1: ABPP KOCO A Battlefield Evaluation System Definitions

BATTLEFIELD ELEMENT	DEFINITION	DEFINING FEATURE EXAMPLES
KEY TERRAIN	A portion of the battlefield, possession of which gives an advantage to the possessor.	Road junctions, fords, buildings, bridges, high ground
OBSERVATION AND FIELDS OF FIRE	Any point on the landscape that allows observation of movements, deployments, and activity of the enemy, offers opportunity to see over an area and acquire targets, and allows flat-trajectory weapons to be brought to bear on the enemy.	High ground, sloping approaches to entrenched positions, clearings, roads
COVER AND CONCEALMENT	Landforms or landscape elements that provide protection from fire and hide troop positions from observation.	Walls, structures, woodlands, ravines, stream banks, hills, entrenchments
OBSTACLES	Landscape elements that hinder movement and affect the ultimate course of the battle.	Watercourses, walls, ravines, marshes, dense vegetation
AVENUES OF APPROACH	Corridors used to transfer troops between the core battle area and outer logistical areas.	Roads, paths, steam beds, railroads

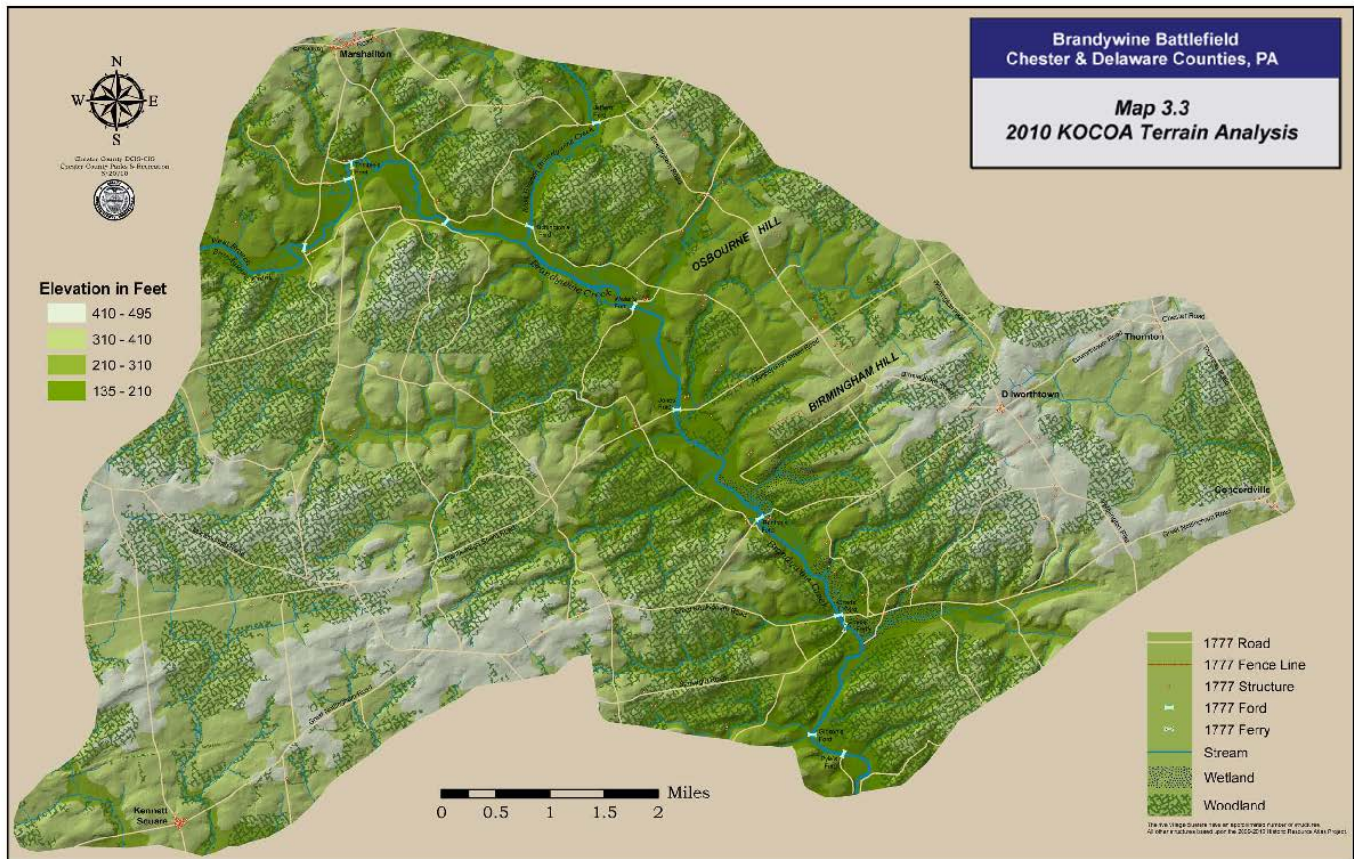
KOCO A looks at whether features present military obstacles or advantages in a battlefield landscape. Completing KOCO A allows understanding of engagement areas where combat occurred, approach routes taken by troops, and activities behind the lines where battle support actions occurred (e.g. army supply baggage trains, camp sites, non-combatant camp-followers, taverns used for meeting places, farms that provisions were taken from, and meetinghouses, residences, and barns used as field hospitals). The KOCO A analysis led to project mapping of battle events and defining features.

Mapping the battlefield extent - The 2010 Study mapped the extent of the battlefield in today’s landscape for the first time. Prior to this, modern day mapping focused largely on the eastern battlefield combat areas. Using ABPP’s 2007 Report to Congress on Revolutionary War battlefield sites as a starting point, in addition to KOCO A analysis and then recent research by the Study’s historian of record, Tom McGuire, it was found through mapping that the battlefield encompasses a much larger area than previously understood, including parts of 15 municipalities in Chester and Delaware counties.² Per ABPP standards, known ‘combat areas’ and ‘associated battle sites’, which together make up a battlefield, were considered in determining the extent of the battlefield.³ Follow-up strategic landscapes projects have provided additional insight and clarification about the battle, resulting in refinements and updated battlefield mapping and KOCO A analysis. The 2010 Study’s KOCO A terrain analysis is shown in the map below.

¹ KOCO A stands for Key Terrain; Observation/Fields of Fire; Cover/Concealment; Obstacles; and Avenues of Approach and Retreat. KOCO A has been used since World War II by the Army War College and was first used as a cultural landscape tool at Gettysburg National Military Park in 1996. ABPP uses KOCO A for evaluations of historic battlefields to establish a consistent baseline for battlefield analysis.

² Kennett Square Borough, New Garden Township, East Marlborough Township, Newlin Township, Pocopson Township, West Bradford Township, East Bradford Township, Westtown Township, Thornbury Township, Birmingham Township, and Pennsbury Township in Chester County, and Chadds Ford Township, Thornbury Township, and Concord Township in Delaware County.

³ Combat areas are where core battle combat occurred. Associated sites are actions, places, people, and structures impacted and/or needed for the battle to occur, including troop movements and camp sites (actions and places), farmhouses used as military headquarters and barns and meetinghouses used as field hospitals (structures), and camp followers to support soldiers and citizens as eyewitnesses to battle events (persons).



Animated battle event mapping and educational DVD – The 2010 Study provided digital animated mapping of troop movements and battle action displayed over modern and 1777 landscape features. Using technology to interactively convey battle events, the 2010 Study innovatively provided an improved understanding of the battle and extent of its land area. The animated map has been widely used as an educational, interpretive, and planning tool for a broad audience including municipal officials, residents, business owners, and children. Animating battle events brings the battle, and its larger context and impact on the local 18th century community to life. An educational DVD offers a video presentation of the animated map and battle, including its context in the American Revolution.

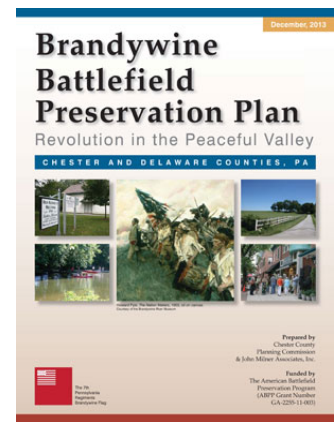
Key project outcomes – The 2010 Study and animated map have spurred increased local citizen and municipal support and excitement about the battle. The animated map has become a national model in battlefield outreach, education, and planning. The 2010 Study recommended a battlefield preservation plan as a follow-up project.

2013 Battlefield Preservation Plan

Building off the 2010 Study, the 2013 Plan further analyzed and identified battle-era cultural and historic resources, features, and landscapes throughout the battlefield and offered recommendations on a multi-municipal level. It provided the first holistic plan for the full battlefield area (combat areas and associated sites as delineated by the 2010 Study and accepted by the ABPP), as well as a compilation and summary of prior studies, plans, and information in one document. It provided guidance for continued collaborative work for education, outreach, interpretation, and preservation of battlefield resources and landscapes, as well as supports the goals of the regional planning group, Brandywine Battlefield Task Force. The 2013 Plan was undertaken by Chester County Planning Commission with Brandywine Battlefield Task Force input. Since much of the battlefield falls on

privately owned lands, a balance between recognition and planning for this national resource and protection of landowner privacy was a deliberate consideration. To this end, public meetings and outreach events (e.g. Task Force meetings and Chadds Ford Days) were part of the planning process and public comments were incorporated into the 2013 Plan.

The 2013 Plan addressed land conservation and historic resources identification, evaluation, and protection strategies; access to public historic sites; potential for pedestrian connectivity, heritage interpretation and educational outreach; and the potential role of heritage tourism. Its subtitle, ‘Revolution in the Peaceful Valley’, brings to the forefront the additional complication, conflict, and intrigue associated with the battle occurring in a largely Quaker pacifist community. It speaks to the two invading armies – one American and one British - that descended upon the Quaker agrarian countryside.



Key project outcomes – As noted in Chapter 1, a key finding of the 2013 Plan is the identification of Strategic Landscapes, which still reflect the 1777 landscape, represent significant elements of the battlefield, include battle elements that need further clarification, and are critical to battlefield understanding for purposes of history, interpretation, planning, and preservation. The 2013 Plan recommended further examination of Strategic Landscapes as key areas of the battlefield and to provide directed guidance for local planning and implementation. Landscapes’ battle elements and battlefield defining features, from the 2013 Plan, are intended to be clarified through projects such as this plan.

The enduring resources and landscapes found within the battlefield highly contribute to the character and quality of life in southern Chester and Delaware counties, and the 2013 Plan is a critical tool for raising awareness about their value and importance, and helping plan for their continuation into the future.

Phase 1 Northern Battlefield Strategic Landscapes Project

Due to the battlefields land area, strategic landscapes planning is divided into phases. The 2010 Study’s KOCOA analysis identified, and the 2013 Plan reiterated, northern battlefield strategic landscapes (Phase 1 study) as battlefield areas in need of additional analysis. Completed in 2015, Phase 1 produced ‘Behind the Lines’ Marshallton Strategic Landscape Plan, ‘Breaching the Fords and the British Advance’ Trimble’s and Jefferis’ Fords Strategic Landscapes Plan, and ‘Preparing for Battle’ Sconnettown & Strode’s Mill Strategic Landscapes Plan.

Marshallton Landscape is related to the battle involving ‘behind the combat line’ events of American reconnaissance that played a key role in battle outcomes. Trimble’s and Jefferis’ Fords Landscapes are related to the battle, having key military events necessary for the successful Crown Force tactical flanking maneuver, leading to the battle outcomes. Sconnettown/Strode’s Mill Landscape is related to the battle with Sconnettown as the final stage of the flanking march and Strode’s Mill (and related nearby Osborne Hill Landscape) as preparation for battle areas; it played a role in key military events necessary for completing the successful British tactical flanking maneuver, leading to the battle outcomes.

Key project outcomes – Some of the key project findings included refining strategic landscape boundaries, correcting the route of the Crown Force march, locating Trimble’s Ford and discovering it contained primary and secondary ford crossings, identifying the area of the Crown Force skirmish with the American front patrol under Lt. Ross, verifying the location of Jefferis’ Ford, identifying 18th century building, landscapes, and natural features that are still visible today, and recreating a 1777-era northern battlefield plat displaying roads, properties, and property owners in 1777, as well as mapping recorded local property damages from troops. The project translates first-hand accounts into today’s landscape setting; a setting that is so intact in places that first-hand accounts could be used as a guidebook to follow the steps of troops.

The project also indicates areas to the south – now identified as the southern battlefield through this plan – played a greater role in the battlefield, are more extensive, and exist with greater integrity than previously assumed. A major project finding is the previously assumed Crown Force route through the northern battlefield had been displayed on roads that were created after 1777, and so thus not yet existing at the time of the battle. The project finds and corrects the Crown Force route through the northern battlefield;. The project recommended a next phase of battlefield strategic landscapes study to understand and clarify southern areas of the battlefield, which resulted in the Phase 2 project.