



# Chapter 1 Introduction

The 2013 Brandywine Battlefield Preservation Plan (2013 Plan) examines and prioritizes significant battlefield areas and battle elements<sup>1</sup> that contribute to the battlefield cultural landscape and are well suited for further study, planning, and possible protection and/or interpretation. Significant battlefield areas, termed ‘strategic landscapes,’ encompass key battle elements of events and features<sup>2</sup>, the latter broadly categorized as physical geography (terrain, land areas used by troops and civilians, and natural features) and cultural topography (settlement patterns and built features). The 2013 Plan identifies 13 strategic landscapes and recommends their further consideration and planning.



Key built feature, Old Kennett Meeting, in the Eastern Column Advance Strategic Landscape, where an early battle clash occurred.

Strategic landscapes are being examined in phases (Map 1-1) due to the complexity of the battle and large size of the battlefield (approximately 35,000 acres). This plan represents the second phase (‘Phase 2’) of battlefield strategic landscapes projects and covers areas and pivotal timeframes related to Crown Force<sup>3</sup> strategy the morning of battle (‘Post-Dawn’) and in the days prior/leading up to battle (‘Pre-Dawn’). Together, four strategic landscapes form the southern Brandywine Battlefield where Gen’l Howe devised and began to execute his battle strategy - the Crown Force army moved from DE into PA on Sept. 8-10, 1777 (‘Approach Landscape’), camped at Kennett Square the eve of battle (‘Encampment Landscape’), and formed two columns (‘Lower Flank Northern Column’ and ‘Eastern Column Advance’ Landscapes) near dawn, Sept. 11, 1777, the day of battle.

Strategic landscapes and their features are areas to focus battlefield-related local planning, land conservation, historic resource protection, and heritage interpretation efforts. Collectively, such efforts honor, preserve, and exhibit areas of American history and the nation’s founding in Chester County, while simultaneously maintaining community identity, sense of place, and enhanced quality of life for residents and visitors within the living and evolving battlefield cultural landscape.

## Plan Purpose

This Phase 2 plan examines and delineates the following for southern battlefield Strategic Landscapes:

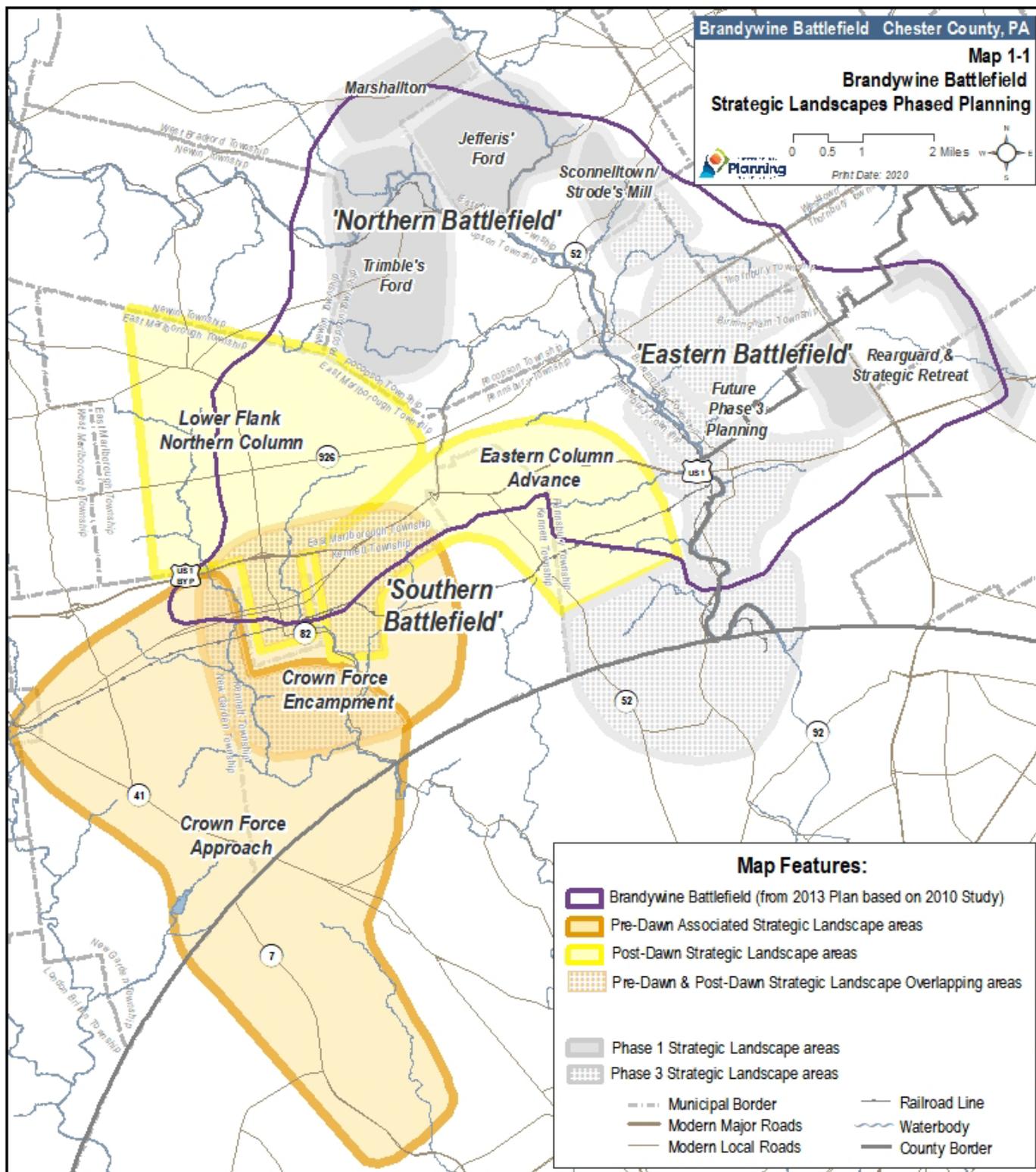
- Post-Dawn role in the battlefield as the initial (lower) stage of Gen’l Howe’s northern flanking maneuver, Crown Force eastern advance and supply caravan, and association with American military activity, civilian involvement, and impacts on the local rural civilian community.
- Pre-Dawn role in the battlefield related to Crown Force military strategy and approach into PA that led to encampment at Kennett Square, and association with American military activity, civilian involvement, and impacts on the local rural community.
- Historic context and physical features that contribute to an interpretable battlefield landscape.
- Strategies for resource, open space, and heritage interpretation planning, including highlighting Kennett Square as a center for interpretation of the southern battlefield.

<sup>1</sup> Battle elements include battle events, e.g. troop movements and skirmishes, and physical features, e.g. ridges or battle-era buildings.

<sup>2</sup> For local planning purposes, features can be correlated with natural resource, open space, historic resource, land, and road planning.

<sup>3</sup> During the Philadelphia Campaign of 1777, British troops along with Hessian soldiers and local loyalists make up the ‘Crown Forces’.

An overview of southern battlefield Landscapes (this Chapter) and their significance to the battle (Chapter 2), as well as battle history, importance, and recent planning efforts (Appendix A) provide perspective for this plan. Key southern battlefield elements are examined via physical geography, cultural topography, and reference materials (Chapter 3) and identification of battle-era built features (Chapter 4)<sup>4</sup>. Phase 2 clarifies battle elements from the 2013 Plan for southern battlefield Landscapes and provides locally oriented strategies for historic resource protection and land conservation (Chapter 5) and heritage interpretation (Chapter 6)<sup>5</sup>.



4 Municipal historic context and detailed information about battle-era properties, that supplements Chapter 4, is in Appendix B.

5 A proposed heritage tour, that supplements Chapter 6, is in Appendix C.

# Strategic Landscape & Plan Names & Areas

Battle of Brandywine was a complex, full day battle that involved relatively constant troop activity. It is a difficult battle to describe using simple geographic bounds, as battle elements and locations overlap and blend into one another (as seen on Map 1-1). Battlefield and strategic landscapes boundaries have been created for ease of discussion for local planning purposes. Mapped Strategic Landscape outlines<sup>6</sup> present general areas for battlefield study and planning. Based on Phase 2 analysis, Landscape outlines changed from the 2013 Plan; which was a shift anticipated by the 2013 Plan when recommending further Landscape analysis.

Focused examination of Lower Flank Northern Column and Eastern Column Advance Landscapes made clear their story is interrelated and best addressed together, as each focuses on one of the two columns of Crown Force troops orchestrated by Gen'l Howe who strategically divided his army into a northern flanking column and an eastern advancing column. This plan addresses the beginning, or lower stage, of the northern flanking movement, while the remainder of the flanking march continued into the northern battlefield<sup>7</sup>. Phase 2 examination of Encampment and Approach Landscapes indicates their story is associated with both Columns Landscapes, as they focus on Crown Force military strategy in the time prior to battle. All four Landscapes, and their events, converge near today's Kennett Square Borough from where the Crown Force army marched at daybreak the day of battle.

'Pre-Dawn' and 'Post-Dawn' are used in this plan as a way to readily discuss southern battlefield areas based on when battle events occurred, and are loosely derived from a firsthand source. The names distinguish between the pivotal timeframes of staging events that occurred in the days prior (Sept 8-10, 1777) to Sept 11, 1777 daybreak, 'Pre-Dawn', and events that began at daybreak and continued through the morning of Sept 11 1777, 'Post-Dawn'.

Examination of all four Landscapes also led to their grouping as the 'southern battlefield' for the project. Southern battlefield landscapes are addressed together in this 'The Army Marched at Dawn' Plan<sup>8</sup> to capture their focused and linked history preceding and immediately following Gen'l Howe's strategic decision to divide his Crown Force army and attack Gen'l Washington's American army along Brandywine Creek.

## Project Need

The 2013 Plan provides a foundation and framework for ongoing battlefield planning, and is the impetus for the Phase 2 project and this plan. Battle of Brandywine activities took place from daybreak to dusk. Phase 2 clarifies battle elements starting at daybreak and proceeding throughout the morning of Sept. 11, 1777 ('Post-Dawn'), as well as identifies associated battle elements occurring in the days prior, leading to the day of battle ('Pre-Dawn') that laid the strategy and groundwork for the battle.

The 2013 Plan includes the Eastern Column Advance as two Strategic Landscapes, indicating historic integrity is partly compromised by development, but heritage interpretation could be considered due to location and visitor amenities, while resources and land preservation should be considered for uncompromised areas. Phase 2 shows the two areas should be discussed as one Eastern Column Landscape. The 2013 Plan does not designate the Lower Flank Northern Column area as a strategic landscape citing its level of development and assumed information about the area's role in the battle. Further analysis of the Crown Force flanking movement during Phase 1, augmented by Phase 2 analysis, reveals a different conclusion. Phase 2 shows that both Columns Landscapes encompass a more expansive geography and there remain noticeable areas of historic settings and resources.

<sup>6</sup> Strategic Landscapes represent generalized areas for study, reference, and planning discussion. Their mapped outlines do not denote firm bounds.

<sup>7</sup> Northern Battlefield Strategic Landscapes Plans address the rest of the flanking march.

<sup>8</sup> The plan name derives from a firsthand source that is mentioned in Chapter 3.

The 2013 Plan does not address the Crown Force Approach, as little was known about it for local planning purposes or that it was an associated element to the battle and a determining part of military strategy and events that unfolded in the battle. The 2013 Plan includes the encampment in a Staging Area Landscape, indicating its historic integrity has been altered by development, noting it should still be examined as a center for heritage interpretation purposes due to area amenities, and population, visitor, and traffic concentration. Further analysis during Phase 2 reveals the Crown Force Approach area is a new Strategic Landscape, which provides relevant information related to the encampment and both Columns Landscapes, as well as contains areas of historic settings and resources. Phase 2 also shows that the Encampment Landscape entails a more expansive geography that contains pockets of historic integrity including historic structures and roads.

This Army Marched at Dawn Southern Brandywine Battlefield Strategies Landscapes Plan is needed to analyze, refine, and clarify assumptions and unknowns in the 2013 Plan to add knowledge about the southern battlefield, for continued planning, education, interpretation, and preservation. In doing so, this plan provides a focused and locally implementable supplement to the 2013 Plan.

## Project Contributors

This project is largely funded through a grant to Chester County from the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which provides competitive funding for battlefield studies and planning nationwide. Created in 1991 and signed into law by Congress in 1996, this National Park Service program is a federal partnership initiative to assist communities in identifying and planning for interpretation and protection of the nation's significant historic battlefields and related resources, as well as raise awareness of their importance for future generations. ABPP addresses wars that occurred on American soil.

Chester County Planning Commission completed this Phase 2 project, with input from<sup>9</sup> East Marlborough, Pennsbury, Kennett, and New Garden Townships, Kennett Square Borough, Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates, and ABPP representatives<sup>10</sup>. Professional archivists from Chester County Archives Department used original primary source materials in Chester County's Archives and other sources to complete historic resources deed and verification research, locate and map property damages claims, and recreate battle-era property, owner, and road mapping. A professional consultant team made up of South River Heritage Consulting, Western Heritage Mapping, and Dr. Robert Selig provided terrain and geospatial field study, primary and secondary source research, battle mapping, and analysis and assessment of assumed battle events. South River Heritage Consulting and Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates' Museum Educator provided vetting of battle history and analysis plan content. Local historian volunteers provided their research and local knowledge of the area, properties, and owners. Landowners voluntarily offered to work with the project team. This project could not have occurred without this extensive and skilled team working collaboratively and alongside the supportive local residents of Chester County.

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<sup>9</sup> The Approach Landscape skims modern Avondale Borough, so the Borough was not involved in this project, however battle history in the plan and Chapter 4's list of historic resources both address a small area of the Borough.

<sup>10</sup> This plan focuses on the battle in PA; however, addresses New Castle County DE in Chapter 2's statement of southern battlefield significance to the battlefield as a whole, Chapter 4's battlefield analysis, and Chapter 6's heritage interpretation for the southern battlefield overall.