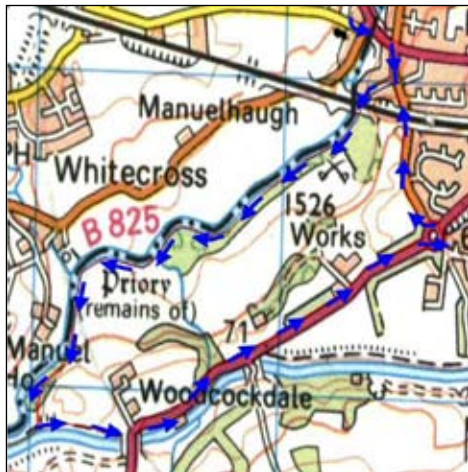


Walking the Battlefield

The battlefield is bisected by the Avon Heritage Trail.

The walk starts at the Bridge Inn at Linlithgow Bridge. Cross the bridge and turn right at the lights on to Mill Road. Approx 20 yds up, turn right down to the Burgh Mills. Here you will pick up the heritage trail along the Avon. Pace Hill is on your left as you go under the viaduct.

The OS battlefield marker is approximately where the lagoon created by the old quarry now sits.



You can follow the trail all the way up to Manuel Nunnery – the crossing point for Lennox's troops.

Now continue uphill and join the Union Canal just east of the Avon Aqueduct, before returning into town along the canal and the busy A706.

The Lennox Cairn marking the approx site of his murder now stands at the roundabout opposite the Leisure Centre. Turn left along Mill Road and back to Linlithgow Bridge and the Bridge Inn.

The Battlefield Trust

The Aims of the Battlefield Trust

- save battlefields from destruction by motorways, housing developments etc
- provide a range of battlefield-related activities and information, including the quarterly journal 'Battlefield', battlefield walks and conferences
- liaise with local and national organisations to preserve battlefields for posterity
- improve the interpretation and presentation of battlefields

If you want more information on battlefields in general, want to ask a detailed question about a particular battlefield or about the Trust itself, then contact Michael Rayner:

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If you would like to know more about this particular battle then please obtain a copy of 'The Heart and The Rose' by Jon Cooper published by Partizan Press

THE BATTLE OF LINLITHGOW BRIDGE 1526



The Battle of Linlithgow Bridge 1526

Thirteen years after James IV was slain at Flodden, the people of Linlithgow once again found themselves fighting for their King, this time against fellow Scots.



King James V

James V was 17 months old when his father died and had spent the majority of his childhood under the care of John Stuart the Duke of Albany, the appointed regent of Scotland.

However Albany had been forced to retire to France after the abortive invasion of England in 1523. By 1526, the king's stepfather,

Archibald Douglas, 6th Earl of Angus, held James in virtual captivity.

Queen Margaret had orchestrated a number of unsuccessful attempts to rescue her son from the Douglas stronghold in Edinburgh. However, the bloodiest foray took place in September 1526 when the king's uncle – John Stewart the Earl of Lennox raised an army of up to 10,000 men at Stirling with the intent on storming Edinburgh castle.



Queen Margaret



A Standard Bearer

In his way stood 2,000 men from the Royal Burgh of Linlithgow and the surrounding area under the command of James Hamilton, the Earl of Arran, who had allied himself with Douglas.

The bridge across the Avon, some two miles to the west of the town, was tactically the strongest defensive position on Lennox's route and it was here on the 3rd September that Arran raised his standard.

Arran posted 200 men and his artillery at the brig before mustering his remaining troops on Pace Hill overlooking the Polmont and Torphichen roads into the West Port. He sent messages beseeching his brother in law not to attack, but to no avail. On the morning of 4th September 1526, the Lennox army appeared at Whitecross.

Lennox decided that to storm the bridge would be too costly and looked to flank Arran's position by fording the Avon upstream. His scouts reported the presence of a ford at Manuel Convent and Lennox ordered the bulk of his men across the river here.

There followed a sharp fight along the eastern banks of the Avon as Lennox tried to force his way into town, but despite being outnumbered, Arran held Pace Hill long enough for the 3,000 Douglas reinforcements to arrive from Edinburgh and force the Lennox men back across the river.

Lennox was wounded and surrendered his sword to the Laird of Pardovan but young James Hamilton of Finnart murdered him – legend has it in the vicinity of the spot now marked by the Lennox Cairn.



The Lennox Cairn

The King arrived too late to save his uncle and to escape to his mother. Instead he spent another two years in the company of the Douglasses before escaping on his own merit and joining his mother in Stirling.

In 1528, James's minority was over and he took control of the country – Douglas was besieged in Tantallon Castle before being exiled to England.



Pikemen Ready for Action