

THE LAST BATTLE
ON ENGLISH SOIL

PRESTON
1715



Discover the battlefield on the streets of Preston, where Jacobite and Government armies clashed – a battle that could have changed the course of British history



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THE BATTLE OF PRESTON 1715

The last battle on English soil was fought through the streets of Preston in November 1715 between Jacobite supporters of James III and the Government army of George I.

The Protestant George I had become king in August 1714 after the death of Queen Anne, the last of the Stuart monarchs. The Jacobites wanted to replace him with the Catholic James III, the son of James II, who had been deposed in 1688.

The Jacobite army that marched into Preston and proclaimed James III king on 10 November 1715 was made up of Scottish and English, Catholic and Protestant supporters. They were commanded by a Northumberland MP, Thomas Forster, who had no military experience. With him were English

Catholics led by the Earl of Derwentwater and Scottish soldiers under Brigadier Mackintosh.

The Jacobites were heading for Manchester where they hoped to find significant support, but meanwhile Government troops under Generals Carpenter and Wills had been sent to stop them.

This trail begins as the Jacobites arrive in Preston, after marching from Northumberland into the Scottish borders and then back into England through Kendal and Lancaster. The events of the battle will unfurl as you follow the route.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE BATTLE

The legacy of the Battle of Preston in 1715 can still be seen elsewhere around the city and in other parts of Lancashire.

Gallows Hill – the streets off Garstang Road near English Martyrs Church commemorate several of the Jacobites executed after the battle. Derwentwater Place and Kenmure Place are named after two of the leaders, who were tried and put to death in London. Shuttleworth, Muncaster, and Arkwright Roads remember local men who were sentenced to death in January 1716.



Harris Museum & Art Gallery – a small display tells the story of Preston's links to Jacobite history, including the Mock Corporation of Walton-le-Dale, a Jacobite drinking club where the Earl of Derwentwater was a member.

Great Mitton Church, near Clitheroe – a memorial to Peregrine Widdrington mentions his role in the 1715 Jacobite Rising and the Battle of Preston.

Lancaster Castle – several hundred Jacobites were imprisoned here, and at least 40 died in the overcrowded and insanitary conditions and were buried at St Mary's Church next to the Castle. Pikes used at the battle are on display.


Stonyhurst College – the school has a collection of Jacobite objects and relics, dating from its early days as the English Jesuit College in St Omer, where the sons of Lancashire Catholic families were educated. Nicholas Blundell of Great Crosby left his home after the Battle of Preston to avoid any repercussions and spent the next year in exile in Flanders where he regularly visited his old school.



1 Market Square

THE JACOBITES ARRIVE

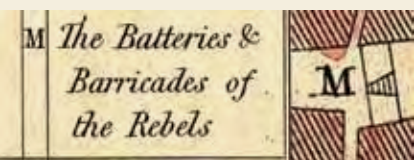
On Thursday 10 November, the Jacobite foot soldiers marched from Garstang to Preston. James III was proclaimed king at the Market Cross in the town centre. Imagine a smaller open space, with a stone cross at the centre and surrounded by timber-framed buildings like the small shop facing the Harris.

 Facing the Harris, turn right out of the Square along Birley Street to Church Street. Stop at the corner of the Miller Arcade.

2 Miller Arcade

BUILDING THE BARRICADES

The small opening on the other side of Church Street is Main Sprit Weind, typical of the narrow streets in 1715. You can see how the land drops off steeply towards the river Ribble. Over the next two days, the Jacobites built barricades of carts and timber across the three main streets and blocked these smaller openings.



 Turn left along Church Street and stop opposite the Church.

3 Preston Minster

THE FIRST ATTACK

A Government army under General Wills arrived from Wigan on Saturday 12 November. In the early afternoon,

200 foot soldiers attacked up Church Street. The Jacobites had the advantage of the view from the church tower, and soldiers stationed in buildings around the church. The Government troops retreated, leaving 120 dead and wounded.




 Continue down Church Street to the corner of Church Row.

4 Church Row

HOLDING THE BARRICADES

The next attack on Church Street came from the side. Two large houses – further down Church Street – were occupied by Government soldiers, who came through the gardens to attack up the side streets. They were spotted from the church tower and, led by the Earl of Derwentwater, the Jacobites launched a successful counter-attack. Houses were set on fire below the church.




 Turn up Church Row, cross the road to the Tithebarn Hotel and continue along Tithebarn Street to the green space.

5 Tithebarn Street

SKIRTING THE TOWN

During the attack on Church Street, a second Government force of dismounted Dragoons was moving round the fields to the north of the town. You are standing on the edge of the built-up area, with fields beyond where barns were set on fire.




 Turn left down Crooked Row and cross the street at the bottom. Walk through the covered market and turn right through the alley at the bottom to Ringway. Cross the dual carriageway, turn left down Ringway, then right up Market Street West. Stop near the main entrance to the car park, opposite a narrow lane.

6 Market Street West

TROOPS ON THE MOVE

This was the Back Street that marked the edge of the town. The houses on Friargate had long plots behind them, with outbuildings and land used for animals and crops. Small streets like the one in front of you led out to the fields. To the sounds of the attacks on Church Street, the Government troops were moving round here to the next point of attack.

 Continue along the street, turning left down to Friargate. Turn right, and cross the road at the crossing. Turn right to stop at the far side of the Lamb and Packet pub.

7 Bottom of Friargate

THE SECOND ATTACK

At 4pm as it was getting dark, dismounted Dragoons attacked the barricade at the windmill just beyond the end of Friargate. If you move to the left, you can just see the last 19th-century windmill in a similar position. Jacobite Highlanders under Colonel Mackintosh fought off the attack, killing over 100 of the Dragoons.

 Walk back up Friargate and stop opposite the Sun Hotel.

8 Opposite the Sun Hotel

OVERNIGHT

By the end of Saturday, the Government losses were far greater than those of the Jacobites. Many bodies have been found over the years, under the cellars of the Sun Hotel and on the land beyond. The Government army set fire to the buildings at the bottom of Friargate, and ordered their men to light candles in the houses they occupied, but the Jacobites caused confusion by doing the same.




 Continue up Friargate to the top of the rise.

9 Friargate

THE TURNING POINT

Early on Sunday 13 November, General Carpenter arrived at Preston with a second army of 600 men and took command of the Government troops. He secured Fishergate to stop the Jacobites escaping across the river. The inexperienced commander of the Jacobites,

Thomas Forster, secretly began negotiations for a surrender. Many of the Jacobites, especially the Scots, wanted to fight on. Sunday passed in stalemate, argument, and occasional fighting.


 Continue along Friargate, crossing over Ringway, and back up to the Market Square.

10 Market Square

SURRENDER

At 7am on Monday 14 November, the Jacobites surrendered. The ordinary soldiers laid down their weapons on the market place. The officers and gentlemen were allowed to surrender in private at the inns where they were staying. The site of the Mitre Inn, where the negotiations took place, is now buried beneath the Harris.




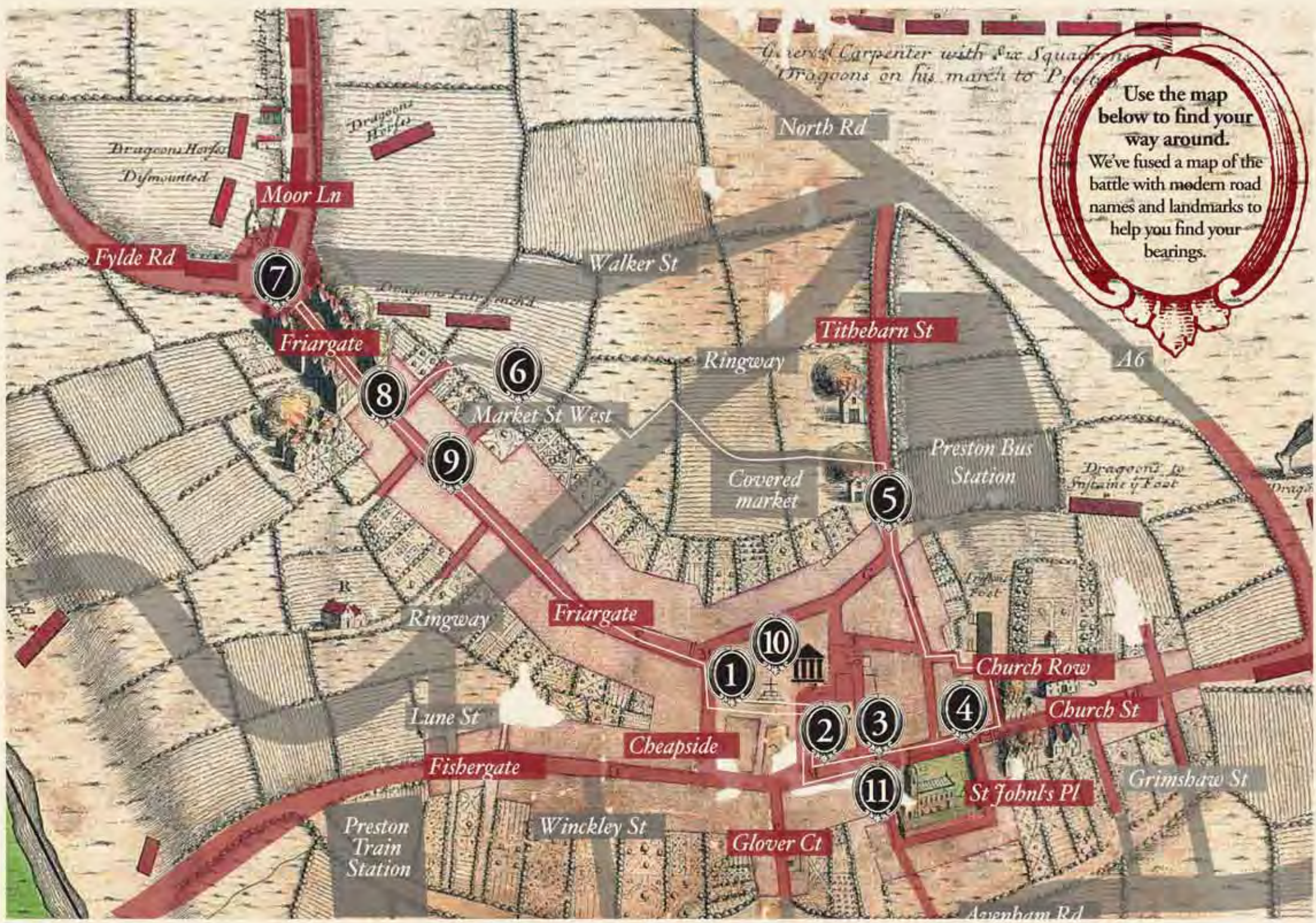
 Facing the Harris, turn right out of the Square along Birley Street to Church Street. Cross the road and turn left to the Church.

11 Preston Minster

AFTERMATH

Over 1,000 Jacobites were imprisoned for several weeks in the church. The people of Preston were obliged to feed the prisoners, who destroyed the fittings of the church in trying to keep warm. The officers were imprisoned in houses and inns – one was the White Bull, now part of the Bull and Royal you have just passed. The Government troops were allowed to loot the town. Twelve Jacobites were later executed at Gallows Hill, on Garstang Road, near Moor Park.

 The trail ends here. You'll find information about other places to visit over the page.



Use the map below to find your way around. We've fused a map of the battle with modern road names and landmarks to help you find your bearings.

Covered Carpenter with six Squads of Dragoons on his march to Preston

Dragoons Harbo
Dismounted

Dragoons Harbo

North Rd

Moor Ln

Fylde Rd

7

Walker St

Friargate

8

6

Market St West

Ringway

Tithebarn St

A6

Covered market

5

Preston Bus Station

Dragoons to Infanterie & Foot

Ringway

Friargate

1

10

Church Row

Lune St

Cheapside

2

3

4

Church St

Fishergate

Winckley St

Glover Ct

11

St John's Pl

Grimshaw St

Preston Train Station

Azenham Rd