**Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust’s reactive response to National Trust for Scotland’s report *Facing Our Past – connections with historical enslavement:***

**Abbreviated statement:**

“The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust welcomes the National Trust for Scotland’s report *Facing Our Past – connections with historical enslavement* as it would anything that supports a greater understanding of Scottish history. There are several inaccuracies on the subject of the Jacobite conflicts, particularly those connected to Charles Edward Stuart’s journey to Scotland in 1745. However, it is important to understand, as the report highlights, just how widespread the effects of slavery were at this time: with those on both sides of the conflict benefiting from the proceeds of this heinous practice.”

**Extended statement:**

“The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust welcomes the National Trust for Scotland’s report *Facing Our Past – connections with historical enslavement* as it would anything that supports a greater understanding of Scottish history. However, there are several inaccuracies on the subject of the Jacobite conflicts, particularly those connected to Charles Edward Stuart’s journey to Scotland in 1745.

These include the erroneous identification of Nantes as the Prince’s point of embarkation; in fact, he boarded the ship, the du Teillay, at Bon Anse Beach, St Nazaire. It is also inaccurate to describe the ship itself as a ‘slave ship’. There is no evidence that the du Teillay ever transported slaves - though it is probable that it might have brought products from slave plantations back from the West Indies to France. In addition, the ship owner, Antoine Walsh, is mistakenly described in the report as ‘Irish-born’, though he was born in Saint-Malo in Brittany, France.

It is important, however, to highlight just how widespread the trade in slaves was. Indeed, the profits of slavery were considered an important source of revenue for many countries at that time: from Hanoverian Britain and Bourbon France to Jacobite supporters across Europe. By enriching these countries in this way, it is fair to say that most people in Europe benefited the revenue of slavery, including those on both sides of the Jacobite Wars of Independence.

*The activities of The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust work to raise awareness and understanding of this period of history. This includes workshops, exhibitions, the commissioning of several art works, tours, concerts and lectures, some of which have specifically focused on slavery and indentured labour linked to the Jacobite wars. In 2021, the trust took over the management and care of Prestonpans Town Hall and a new exhibition marking the Battle of Prestonpans will be unveiled there in 2022. There are plans for an associated future exhibition to evaluate both sides of the conflict’s connections with indentures and slavery.”*

**The National Trust for Scotland: Interim Report - 2021**

**Facing Our Past – connections with historical enslavement.**

The NTS published the following narrative of Culloden’s ‘connection with historical enslavement’

**“16. Culloden [ID]** *Prince Charles Edward Stuart sailed from Nantes – a busy port in the transatlantic slave trade – to the Hebrides in summer 1745 on a French slave ship, the Du Teillay. It belonged to the wealthy Irish-born shipowner, slave trader and plantation owner Antoine Walsh, whose father had helped Charles’s grandfather escape after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. Antoine took a leading role in financing and planning Bonnie Prince Charlie’s expedition to Scotland. After the defeat at Culloden in 1746, many Jacobite prisoners were transported to British colonies. The convicts were typically sold for £10 at the quayside into indentured labour for seven years; their life expectancy was low. In the years following the Battle of Culloden, many other Jacobites chose to emigrate, seeing no future in Scotland. Of these people, many became involved in enslavement: working enslaved crews to clear trees in the West Indies, managing plantations as ‘attorneys’ and subsequently owning enslaved people. Although many of these men died young too, the numerous Scottish surnames in Jamaica, other Caribbean islands and in the USA bear testament to the 18th-century Scots’ impact and their disproportionate involvement with enslavement. So do the subsequent compensation claims lodged, once slavery was abolished, by descendants of those Scots who settled abroad during the last decades of the 18th century.”*