

The Legend of the Saltire



The St Andrew's Cross, or Saltire, is Scotland's national flag. Tradition has it that the flag, the oldest in Europe and the Commonwealth, originated in a battle fought close by the East Lothian village of Athelstaneford in the dark ages. The date is believed to have been 832AD.

An army of Picts under King Angus, and aided by a contingent of Scots, was invading Lothian (at that time still Northumbrian territory), and found itself surrounded by a larger force of Saxons led by Athelstan.

Fearing the outcome of the encounter, Angus led prayers for deliverance and was rewarded by seeing the formation of a white saltire (the diagonal cross on which St Andrew had been martyred) against the blue sky.

The king vowed that if, with the saint's help, he gained the victory, then Andrew would thereafter be the patron saint of Scotland. The Scots did win, and the Saltire became the flag of Scotland.

www.scottishflagtrust.com

The Flag Heritage Centre

Athelstaneford is the birthplace of Scotland's flag. The Flag Heritage Centre, which has been awarded 4 star attraction status by visitscotland, lies behind the Parish Church. Visitors can enjoy a short audio-visual dramatisation, available in 7 languages at the touch of a button, of the traditional origins of the flag. The Centre is open daily between 09.00 and 18.00 from 1 April until 31 October and on St Andrew's Day, 30 November. Admission is FREE.



Athelstaneford lies some 20 miles east of Edinburgh and is easily accessed and signposted from the A1. It can also be accessed by rail as it lies just 2 miles south of Drem Station on the North Berwick line.

There is a network of pathways and cycle routes through the stunning East Lothian countryside linking directly to Athelstaneford.



This leaflet has been produced by the Scottish Flag Trust, with support from East Lothian Council and East Lothian Community Rail Partnership.

Visit ATHELSTANEFORD

Birthplace of Scotland's Flag



ROUTES FOR WALKERS & CYCLISTS from Drem Station

KEY

-  Main Roads
-  Quiet Roads
-  Paths Suitable for Cycling
-  Other Paths



1000 metres

DREM

TO NORTH
BERWICK →

EAST COAST MAIN LINE →

← TO WAVERLEY STATION

The Chesters Fort

**FLAG
HERITAGE
CENTRE**

ATHELSTANEFORD

**Museum
of Flight**

**Hopetoun
Monument**

**Barnes
Castle**

Garleton Hills

← **A199 HADDINGTON**