



## King's Own Scottish Borderers and the Living Barracks Project

### Borderers

As I am sure you are all aware, the Association is a key partner in the development of the Barracks, known as the *Living Barracks Project*. We are a full member of the Project Board and several associated working groups to ensure that the Project delivers an outcome which will enhance our presence within the Barracks, allow more fuller use of the site and make the Barracks more welcoming to visitors.

This is a £12m project mainly funded by the Cultural Development Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund, with contributions from the Project Partners, the King's Own Scottish Borderers Association, English Heritage, Northumberland County Council and The Maltings Trust. The Project Board is currently developing business and site management plans for the redeveloped Barracks and details will become available over the coming months.

This is a complex, long-term project therefore timelines are fluid and subject to change. Currently these are:

By end of May 2024: pack Regimental Collection for temporary storage.

By end of June 2024: submission of Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

Early summer 2024: decant Regimental Collection and Association Offices to D Block.

November 2024: building work to renovate the East Wing due to start.

Early summer 2025: fit out of East Range interiors due to start.

By end of 2026: refurbished Regimental Museum due to open.

On completion of the Project, the Association will have modern, fully equipped offices, there will be a veterans' hub, accessible to all veterans and a refurbished, state of the art Regimental Museum which will secure the Regimental Collection and Archive for future generations. As a result, we will be able to continue to operate the Association's welfare, operational and social activities as we currently do, as well as providing social space for veterans and facilitating access to relevant military charities.

In addition to the Regimental Museum, the Living Barracks will include a museum telling the story of Berwick as a frontier, garrison town, the history of the Barracks and its uses over the centuries. There will be opportunities to combine aspects of the three stories of Town, Barracks and Regiment together to illustrate certain key themes or events, and opportunities are being explored to include Berwick's Burrell Collection within the on-site displays. However, while we will work alongside the other partners where stories can be better told together rather than separately, we will continue to have a recognisable Regimental Museum with our Collection owned and managed by the Association.

Discussions continue as to the exact location of our refurbished Museum but no matter the outcome we will be able to tell the Regiment's story in a manner designed and curated by Association representatives. The Museum Committee is leading the work to pack, move and store the Collection and Archive to meet the above timeline. Concurrently, objects are being identified for display in the refurbished Regimental Museum. Those parts of the Regimental Collection not displayed will be stored on-site and the Archive will be housed in a purpose-built, on-site facility managed by Northumberland County Council.

Finally, it is worth making it very clear that our entire Collection and Archive will always remain under our ownership and control and will not be handed over to any other organisation.

I trust that you find this SITREP of interest and if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with either myself or Major Grant Horsburgh who is managing operational aspects of the Museum refurbishment on behalf of the Trustees.

Colonel Angus Loudon MBE  
President of the Regimental Association