

BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD: THE WAY FORWARD

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY DIRECTION)



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

A Borough to be proud of

WARDS AFFECTED: AMBIEN / CADEBY, CARLTON & MARKET BOSWORTH WITH SHACKERSTONE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward Conservation Management Plan prepared on behalf of Leicestershire County Council and English Heritage. The study will be used to inform the significance of the battlefield to aid in the determination of planning applications which affect this heritage asset and to inform plan making and strategies relating to the battlefield.
- 1.2 The plan can be accessed using the following link:
<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s86830/12.%20Bosworth%20Battlefield%20Conservation%20Plan%20-%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Full%20Conservation%20Plan.pdf>

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended:
 - That Executive endorses the study to be used as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan and inform decision making.
 - That support is given for participation in a community-led local partnership with key stakeholders on matters such as rights of way, access and conservation issues relating to the Battlefield and wider area.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Battle of Bosworth is a well known historical event of national significance and international interest. The Battlefield was designated a Registered Battlefield area by English Heritage in 1995. Several contradictory theories regarding the location of the battle existed for many years and the determination of a more precise location for the battle was made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund grant in 2005 and the generous assistance of local landowners. Subsequent detailed research and survey work revealed many finds and located the likely battle site to the southwest of Ambion Hill near Fenn Lane, Dadlington.
- 3.2 The recent discoveries, coupled with the very significant discovery of the remains of Richard III in Leicester, have brought changes- a re-emphasis on the heritage of the area and subsequent increased interest from tourists, local communities and schools.
- 3.3 The Bosworth Battlefield Conservation Management Plan is intended as an aid to the management of the Bosworth Battlefield and its landscape setting. It is a set of guiding principles and policies intended for those involved in the management of the area, including those dealing with recreational activity, land management and planning matters.
- 3.4 The Conservation Plan contains an extensive amount of site survey work, desk-based research and the results of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including the Borough Council, landowners and English Heritage. It will be a reference point for understanding the areas value and significance and inform the

application of local and national planning policy when determining planning applications within and adjacent to the Battlefield. In addition the plan highlights current issues affecting the significance of the area and factors which may have the potential to affect it in the future. It addresses these through the development of proposed policies and actions which help inform strategic planning, day to day decision making and management. It should be noted that the majority of policies presented within the Conservation Plan can not be directly enforced through the planning system as they stand outside the remit of planning.

- 3.5 In March 2011, Alison Farmer Associates were commissioned by the County Council and English Heritage to prepare the Conservation Plan, supported by a working group of representatives from the Borough Council, Natural England, English Heritage and the County Council.

4. The Conservation Management Plan

- 4.1 The Conservation Management Plan is a technical document which seeks to bring together in one place a fuller understanding of the significance of the Bosworth Battlefield Landscape and the challenges and opportunities going forward.

- 4.2 To achieve this, the plan provides a definition of what constitutes a Battlefield, identifies relevant designations, policies and initiatives, and establishes the remit of the plan. In addition the Plan tells the story of the Battle, the evolution of its landscape setting to the present day and the landscape character and important views including key characteristics.

- 4.3 The plan also examines the physical sources of historical information and identifies and examines the various uses within the battlefield area including tourism and recreational activities.

- 4.4 These considerations culminate in a summary of the significance of the Battlefield area, its values, issues and opportunities for improvement. This in turn seeks to provide a thorough understanding of what is of value, any vulnerabilities to the significances of the area and highlights areas for positive opportunity for change. This understanding provides a firm basis for identifying the policies and actions needed to tackle the issues and conserve and enhance significance.

- 4.5 These policies and actions are divided under the following six themes;

1. Partnership and Communication
2. Living Landscape and Local Economy
3. Protection of the Archaeological Resource
4. Landscape Management
5. Appreciation and Understanding
6. Access and Enjoyment

- 4.6 There are a total of 14 objectives and 44 policies within these six themes. These objectives and policies are illustrated in Appendix A attached to this report.

5. The Partnership Forum

- 5.1 The conservation plan proposes a partnership forum to include local residents, heritage and conservation societies, landowners and national organisations to lead the implementation of policies, suggestions for action and organising bids for external funding. The partnership forum will, ideally be led by a local landowner or community representative, with support from the County Council and Borough Council.

- 5.2 The approach to forming the partnership forum is outlined in the objectives contained within the Plan which includes identifying the Key Stakeholders, establishing regular

meetings and developing the terms of reference. A key finding from the consultation process has highlighted the need to avoid being perceived as too prescriptive and bureaucratic in its approach to the partnership forum and to develop the mechanisms as it evolves.

6 NEXT STAGE

- 6.1 The potential to assist with the partnership forum.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (DMe)

The cost of producing the Conservation Management Plan was met through a grant from English Heritage and County Council resources received by the Leicestershire County Council.

Any further implementation of the proposals in the plan will be funded from externally funded programme such as Heritage Fund landscape partnership bid and will be identified through re-prioritisation of their work programmes and existing resources.

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (AB)

- 8.1 None raised directly by report

9. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The plan relates to following Corporate Aims:
- Creating a vibrant place to work and live
 - Empowering Communities
 - Providing value for money and pro-active services.

10. CONSULTATION

- 10.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the following organisations:

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| • Bosworth Battlefields Trust | • Leicestershire Footpaths Association |
| • English Heritage | • Leicestershire Promotions Ltd |
| • Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council | • Local Access Forum |
| • Hinckley & Bosworth Tourism Partnership | • Market Bosworth Parish Council |
| • Leicestershire County Council-Property Services | • MIRA |
| • Archaeology | • The National Farmers Union |
| • Travel Choice and Access Team | • Natural England |
| | • The Richard III Society |
| | • Stoke Golding Parish Council |
| | • Sutton Cheney Parish Council |

These consultations are summarised in appendix B of this report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.
- 11.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the

information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 11.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
None known	N/a	David Kiernan

12. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

This plan may affect the rural communities within and adjacent to the Registered Battlefield Area.

13. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning Implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward Conservation Management Plan
Appendix A: Objectives and Policies
Appendix B: Summary of Consultations

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