

Conflict in the pre-industrial landscape of England: a resource assessment

Glenn Foard

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Summary and acknowledgements

This project set out to ascertain how material evidence for military action¹ and the landscape in which it took place can be better integrated into the investigation and management of the UK's historic environment.

Whilst the project is concerned with England, it fits into an evolving context of existing work in Scotland and prospective work in Wales, the three elements together being planned towards an integrated whole. The project's objectives were to:

- define the resource
- identify research potential
- develop a research framework for investigation
- develop a methodology for assessment
- define a framework for conservation

The project was planned in two stages. Phase One, upon which this volume reports, was designed as a resource assessment focussing primarily upon battles, involving the preparation of a gazetteer, an assessment of condition and potential with more detailed field examination of a number of representative examples, leading to a report that would include a design for Phase Two. The design of Phase One built on substantial experience already gained in Scotland; its outputs are offered to inform policy and assist management of land use change, the work of HERs, planners, and the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Phase Two will include more advanced pilot projects to advance investigation aspects, further publication and training outputs and will extend the scope of the assessment more fully into the area of sieges, which are an essential complement to battles in the understanding of historic warfare on land.

The report has been researched and written by Glenn Foard, with extensive editorial help from Richard Morris. Comments and guidance have been provided by

¹ Military action is taken to embrace battles, sieges, skirmishes and events of civil unrest. Because of the very different character of warfare in the industrial period, the project's younger boundary was set at the end of the 18th century. Naval action is excluded, although the value of wrecks in providing closed assemblages of weapons and munitions is recognised.

an advisory panel consisting of Professor John Childs (Chair), Dr Paul Stamper, Rob Janaway, Dr Karen Watts and Michael Rayner. Aleksandra Maclain carried out the local bibliographic searches for Cumbria and the West Riding of Yorkshire. Funding was provided by English Heritage and the University of Leeds with in-kind contributions from the Battlefields Trust.

Alongside original work undertaken specifically for this project, the report has had the good fortune to draw upon Battlefields Trust surveys in progress at several battlefields, notably Edgehill and Bosworth. Other contributions have been made by David Hall on open field systems, by Rob Janaway on taphonomy, and Rodney Burton on soils. Simon Richardson and Tim Sutherland have also given valuable advice on Towton. J Baker, S Brookes, D Parsons and A Reynolds have assisted on approaches to the location of early medieval battlefields and very helpfully contributed a note on the implications of their work for this project. Charles Haecker arranged visits to and fieldwork on battlefield sites in the USA. Douglas Scott has advised on the investigation and management of battlefields in the USA. Susanne Wilbers-Rost for advice on and tour of Kalkriese. Iain Sanderson for information on Adwalton Moor, Tony Pollard on Sedgemoor and Alex Hildred for access to the Mary Rose material. All HER officers and a number of Finds Liaison Officers have provided information.

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Glenn Foard
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