

## **Appendix 9 Chronology of the Bosworth Battlefield Area**

### ***Neolithic Period***

- Stone and flint axes have been found in the general area around the Fenn Hole Marsh
- Dispersed settlements with intensive land use leading to widespread clearing of woodland

### ***Bronze Age***

- Axe hammer found prior to survey
- Round barrow near Sutton Cheney
- A few wide spread bronze objects (axe and spear head fragments) and flint scatters found in the survey

### ***Iron Age***

- Late Iron Age coin found in the survey
- No pottery recorded to date, but almost certainly heavily populated.
- Potential evidence of a hamlet or religious site from the Late Iron Age seen in geophysical survey, which identified enclosures and some very late Iron Age/Early Roman finds on Ambion Hill

### ***Roman Period***

- A probable Roman temple site on Ambion Hill, with geophysical survey identifying enclosures and trackway/road. Objects including pottery, statuette fragments, brooches, coins and kiln debris found on the Western side of Ambion Hill. Date range postulated as late 1<sup>st</sup> C BC – late 4<sup>th</sup> C AD
- Building of a Roman road known today as Fenn Lane south of Ambion Hill, probably mid - late 1<sup>st</sup> C AD.
- Roman occupation scatter north of Fenn Lane, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> C – just possibly a market / trading activity, as several steelyard weights have been found.

### ***Early – Middle Anglo Saxon Period***

- Absence of evidence probably due to lack of fieldwork and difficulty of finding handmade pottery in heavily ploughed soil rather than absence of settlement. A single brooch fragment found on Ambion Hill Roman site – possibly from a burial.

### ***Late Anglo Saxon/Viking Period***

- Formation of all the villages and probably churches at Stoke, Sutton Cheney and Dadlington.
- Formation of the open field system and the Townships.
- Potential final clearance of woodland
- No obvious Danish influence
- Coin of Offa found

### ***Early Medieval 1066-1350***

- Completion of the nucleated settlements and open field system. Building of manor houses
- Four townships encroaching upon the battlefield area: Shenton, Sutton Cheney, Dadlington and Upton
- Within the township of Sutton Cheney existed the hamlet know as Ambion / Anebein / Hanebein which first appeared in records in 1271 and disappeared

from records in 1346; probably greatly depopulated as a result of the Black Death and the plagues that followed and then cleared by landowner to rear sheep.

- Dadlington Windmill erected.
- Redemore mentioned in the Dadlington Court roles

### **Later Medieval 1350- 1500**

- The ridge of high ground from Ambion Hill through to Stapleton was probably the site of Richard III's camp before the 1485 battle, but as yet there is little archaeological evidence to confirm this.
- 1485 August - Battle of Bosworth
- Between 1470 and 1605 the great field immediately to the east of Stoke Golding changes in name from Garbrodys to Crown Hill field.

### **16th Century**

- Documents available referring to the Manor of Anne Beam although no reference to a hamlet
- 1511 churchwardens are granted license to raise alms for the restoration of a chantry chapel for the Bosworth dead
- 1580s – 1604 Stoke Golding enclosed
- early 16<sup>th</sup> C Redemore mentioned in Dadlington Court rolls

### **17th Century**

- 1603 – 1646 Shenton enclosed
- 1620s William Burton claims to have weapons and armour from the battle, and records many dug up during enclosure in the late 16<sup>th</sup> C. These no longer seem to exist.
- 1629s Shenton hall built by William Wollaston.
- 1632 Higham on the Hill enclosed
- 1625 – 1674 Dadlington enclosed
- 1644 a Civil War skirmish fought on the field where Richard III was slain in 1485
- 1670s -80s Bosworth Hall built on the site of a medieval moated manor house
- Sutton Cheney is enclosed by 1674
- 1638- 1679 – 1803 gradual enclosure of Sibson (including Upton) ending with Act

### **18th Century**

- 1768 -1804 Ashby Canal is constructed.
- 1769 Dovecote built at Shenton Hall (extant) and re-design of Shenton Pleasure grounds as a landscape park (tree clumps, avenue, driveway)

### **19th Century**

- Ambion Hill Farm built in early 19th century
- Samuel Parr erected a cairn over a spring on Ambion Hill in 1813 known as 'Richard's Well'
- 1862 Shenton Hall considerably extended and the church rebuilt. New plantations (Top Spinney), a new driveway to approach hall from Bradfields canal bridge and a rectilinear pool created
- 1873 Ashby and Nuneaton joint railway constructed, along with Shenton Station
- 1880 – estimated date for planting of Ambion Wood

## **20th Century**

- 1945 onwards - major changes to drainage pattern in the area - particularly Redemore Plain
- 1950s Planting of conifers in Ambion Wood
- 1966 Ambion DMV designated a SAM
- 1966 Richard's Well listed as Grade II
- 1966 Stoke Golding airfield established
- 1970 Shakerstone to Nuneaton section of Ashby and Nuneaton joint railway closed
- 1974 Bosworth Battlefield Centre and County Park opened and the Bosworth trail set up by LCC and reinactments started
- 1985 BBHC extended for 500 anniversary - further buildings constructed on site adding to the existing farm buildings
- 1985 Interpretation of battle was challenged by Foss starting the debate on the location
- 1986 Apple Orchard Farm listed Grade II
- 1990 Ashby Canal designated a Conservation Area
- 1990 Railway Station on Humberston Road, Leicester was relocated and rebuilt as Shenton Station
- 1990 Comprehensive study of Battlefield by Foss
- 1992 Shenton Village designated a Conservation Area
- 1993 Bennett publishes book 'The Battle of Bosworth'
- 1995 Bosworth confirmed as a registered battlefield by EH and boundary defined and report prepared and the area given 'material consideration' status in planning.
- 1999 - field walking and metal detecting survey

## **21st Century**

- 2001 Hinckley and Bosworth Local Plan adopted
- 2001 resistivity survey of Flagpole Field to NW of BB Heritage Centre revealed enclosures
- 2002 Wright produced alternative theory to battlefield location
- 2002 Jones present a fundamental relocation of Battlefield
- 2002 Stoke Golding airfield redeveloped
- 2003 - field walking and metal detecting survey
- 2004 BBHC site (Country Park) split between two departments in LCC
- 2004 Conservation Statement prepared for battlefield by Chris Burnett Associates
- 2004 Bosworth Battlefield - A Reassessment published by Glenn Foard
- 2004 New 25 year lease agreement for Battlefield Visitor Centre put in place between LCC and Sutton Cheney Estate
- 2005 LCC awarded HLF award
- 2005 Work starts on redevelopment of BBHC and the Battlefield Survey starts
- 2005 Five year temporary planning permission granted by LCC for 'medieval village' at Ambion Parva
- 2005 Tithe Barn Restaurant opened
- 2006 Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Room opened
- 2006 Hinckley and Bosworth Landscape Character Assessment published
- 2008 Bosworth Battlefield exhibition opened
- 2009 Hinckley and Bosworth Core Strategy Adopted

- 2009 archaeological survey located the battlefield, recovering a discrete scatter of cannon balls and other battle-related small finds over a large area 2 km south-west of the Heritage Centre
- 2010 'Medieval Village' at Ambion Parva dismantled
- 2010 Station Glass opened at Shenton Station
- 2011 Completion of new external trail and interpretation at Bosworth Battlefield Centre