

CABINET – 13 SEPTEMBER 2013**BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD CONSERVATION PLAN****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADULTS AND COMMUNITIES****PART A****Purpose of Report**

1. To request approval from the Cabinet for the proposed Conservation Plan for the area of Bosworth Battlefield and support for a local partnership to be established between stakeholders, landowners and other partners to decide priorities for action in the area.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended:
 - a) That the Bosworth Battlefield Conservation Plan 'Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward', attached as Appendix A, be approved;
 - b) That support be given for the development of a local partnership to work with the County Council on matters such as rights of way, access and conservation issues, as outlined in paragraph 16 of the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. To enable a common framework to be in place for landowners and other local stakeholders to work towards developing a shared understanding of the area, its values and significance. As well as dealing with current issues and concerns, such a framework with a proposed plan of action will help to secure a sustainable future for the Battlefield landscape.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

4. A decision is required in order to sit alongside the recent reassessment by English Heritage of the boundaries of the Registered Battlefield and to update the National Register of Battlefields. It will also complement Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Local Plan (2006-2026) which is being reviewed and will be consulted upon in due course.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

5. This is the first Conservation Plan for the area. The Plan will sit within the existing National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and local planning policies. It will help to inform and support policies in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Local Plan (2006-2026) and any relevant Supplementary Planning Documents. In particular, this will support *Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Core Strategy Policy 23: Tourism Development* and provide information on the significance of this asset to support their emerging development management policies on Heritage Assets.

Resources Implications

6. The cost of producing the Conservation Plan was met through a grant from English Heritage and through use of existing County Council resources. The resources required to implement the proposals identified in the Plan would be identified through re-prioritisation of work programmes and existing resources and potentially through an externally funded programme such as a Heritage Lottery Fund landscape partnership bid.
7. The Director of Corporate Resources and the County Solicitor have been consulted on the contents of this report.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

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PART B

Background

8. The Battle of Bosworth is a well known historical event of national significance and international interest. The Battlefield was designated a Registered Battlefield 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 was made possible by the Heritage Lottery Fund grant of 2005 and the generous assistance of local landowners. Subsequent detailed research and survey work revealed many archaeological finds and located the likely battle site to the southwest of Ambion Hill near Fenn Lane, Dadlington.
9. These recent discoveries, coupled with the very significant discovery of the remains of Richard III in Leicester, have brought changes including a re-emphasis on the heritage of the area and subsequent increased interest from tourists, local communities and schools.
10. *Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward* is intended as an aid to the management and support of Bosworth Battlefield and its landscape setting. The Plan includes 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. A copy of the Conservation Plan is attached at Appendix A for members of the Cabinet.
11. The Conservation Plan contains an extensive amount of site survey work, desk research and the results of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. It will be a reference point for understanding the area's value and significance. It 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 will help to inform strategic planning, as well as day to day decision making and management.
12. 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 Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Natural England, English Heritage and the County Council.
13. The Bosworth Battlefield was included in the Register of Historic Battlefields by English Heritage in 1995 and is therefore recognised as being of national significance. This Conservation Plan study area focuses on the Registered Battlefield (an area of 632 hectares originally, and now 1071.76 hectares) together with an extended area of newly located battlefield (approved by the English Heritage Battlefields Panel in July 2011) and formally adopted in June 2013, following an extended consultation period. The map showing the Conservation Plan study area and the boundary of the English Heritage Registered Battlefield is attached at Appendix B. The Registered Battlefield is marked in purple, the Conservation Plan study area is marked in yellow.
14. It also includes the wider landscape which:
 - forms the physical and historical context;
 - is associated with the battle, eg Dadlington Chapel, Sutton Cheney, and Stoke Golding churches;
 - has views over the battlefield area;
 - has potential for related battlefield archaeology;

- has complementary recreational activity.
15. The Conservation Plan identifies 14 proposed objectives and actions needed around six themes:
- Encouraging partnership and communication;
 - Fostering the local economy;
 - Protection of archaeological resources;
 - Sustainable land management;
 - Appreciation and understanding of the landscape;
 - Access to and enjoyment of the Bosworth Battlefield area.

Proposal

16. 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, suggesting priorities for action, and organising bids for external funding. This partnership forum will, ideally, be led by a local landowner or community representative, with support from the County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.
17. 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.
18. Issues raised during the consultations such as traffic, litter, footpaths and rights of way could form the business of such a forum. The details of the management and reporting process of the forum will be discussed in due course.

Consultations

19. Consultation has taken place with a range of organisations. This is summarised in Appendix C.

Comments from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

20. The Conservation Plan will assist the Borough Council in assessing the significance of the Battlefield. The Council currently has a saved Local Plan policy BE17: Historic Battlefields which is used in determining planning applications within the designated battlefield area (now extended). This policy will remain active until the adoption of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (DPD) expected in early 2015. As part of the pre-submission version of the Site Allocations and DPD, two new heritage policies and one archaeology policy are being developed this year. One heritage policy is a generic umbrella policy which indicates how planning applications relating to heritage assets should be assessed and this is closely aligned with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework. The second heritage policy relates specifically to the different heritage assets including historic landscapes into which the Bosworth Battlefield and its setting falls.

21. It should be noted that the majority of the objectives and policies in the Bosworth Conservation Plan cannot be directly enforced through the planning system as they stand out of its remit. However, the Borough Council strongly supports the idea of a partnership or stakeholder forum which will decide the priorities for the local area and will be pleased to be part of discussions on that. The Borough Council supports the proposal that such a forum should be led by the local community and key stakeholders and not by local authorities.
22. Work to define the setting of the Battlefield, considering the key sensitive sites and topographical features, and why these may be important, will take place involving local landowners and stakeholders. An approach may be to consider the opportunities for creating a buffer zone in relation to the Registered Battlefield boundary.

Background Papers

- English Heritage Register of Battlefield's Entry Summary – http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle_print.aspx?uid=1000004&showMap=1&showText=1

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Bosworth Battlefield Conservation Plan – Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward
Appendix B – Revised Registered Battlefield Boundary and Conservation Plan Study area
Appendix C – Stakeholder comments
Appendix D – Risk assessment

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equal Opportunities Implications

23. An Equality Impact Questionnaire/Assessment will be carried out as specific initiatives are developed.

Partnership working and associated issues

24. A number of organisations already consulted as outlined in Appendix C have expressed an interest in being part of the Partnership Forum.

Risk Assessment

25. A risk assessment is attached at Appendix D.