

Battlefields Trust Wessex Region Report for 2015

1. Membership

As of 1st Dec 2015 there are 139 members within the region, an increase of 35 in the last 18 months

2. Finances

The region has raised £113.00 in collecting tin H006. £57.00 has been spent on the purchase of relevant books for resale at events leaving a balance as of 8th Jan 2016 of £56.00.

3. Battlefield Protection

(i) In its local plan for New Alresford, Winchester City Council has earmarked the Sun Lane area as a site for potential new housing. Although this is not part of the registered battlefield of Cheriton (1644), it is an area where activity is likely to have taken place before and after the main battle. Simon Marsh (BT threats co-ordinator) has written to Winchester City Council requesting that

(a) in considering whether to agree development at this location, its association with the battlefield is taken fully into account as required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

(b) Secondly, in the event a decision is taken to develop the site, appropriate archaeological conditions are imposed on any planning permission granted to ensure that the site is fully investigated using battlefield survey best practice and the results made publicly available in advance of any development.

(ii) An application to build houses on the Great Orchard site in Norton St Philip has been rejected. The Trust joined the opposition to this application as the area is part of the action fought in the village in 1685. We are monitoring the situation as revised applications may be made in the future.

4. Regional activities

(i) Walks have been staged at Norton St Philip, Langport and Alton

(ii) Ed Dawson has represented the Trust at a large number of events relating to the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta including a major commemoration at Odiham in May. This was part of a Trust project funded by HLF a full report on which will be published separately.

(iii) The Trust supported the Battle of Agincourt Conference which was held at Southampton University in August. The Trust ran an information and sales stand and a number of Trust members from the region attended.

(iv) The Trust has worked with the Langport and District Historical Society in researching two walking trails around the battlefield. These have been trialled by our members and we are now ready to be designed and produced.