



Once again it has been a very long time since we have sent you a newsletter. I can only apologise for this and confess that my role as national Director of Operations and my work with the Trust's Education Group have caused me to neglect some of my duties as regional chairman. I am stepping down from my national roles at the next AGM to re-focus my attentions on the region so I will endeavour to keep everyone more regularly informed.

The absence of a newsletter does not mean that nothing has been happening. We have a number of projects in hand and under consideration and the prime purpose of this newsletter is to tell you about these and to give you an opportunity to get involved in some or all of them.

Geoffrey Carter

The Battle of Carham

A few years ago the Battle of Carham was somewhat of an enigma. The battle was little known and there was argument as to when it took place, where it was fought, who commanded the Northumbrian forces and its importance in setting the border between England and Scotland. The forthcoming 1000th anniversary of the battle was too good an opportunity to miss so the Battlefields Trust started preliminary work to look into and research events and history of first millennium. We started by contacting anyone who might be able to help and direct our investigations and we were extremely fortunate to receive immediate support from Dr Alex Woolf of St Andrews University. The Trust encouraged and helped to set up the Carham 1018 Society so that there was a

Using a bit of lateral thinking we have found conclusive evidence that the battle took place in 1018, rather than the sometimes argued 1016. Cynics might think that this is because there was no way that we could be ready for a 2016 millennial commemoration, but with advice from NASA, and pinpointing the date of a comet, the date of the Battle of Carham is now fixed as 1018. There is still a great deal to do before we will be able to define a full and workable story of Carham, but we feel that we are now on course to do this. After completing initial publicity work, including talks and letters to the local Press, and enlisting support from local dignitaries, a Heritage Lottery Fund grant application has been made and we now await the outcome of this often rather traumatic process.



If all goes well the Carham project will result in a good deal of local and national publicity, interpretation boards on the battle site, leaflets and publications and a full Living History and Re-enactment weekend in July 2018. Much depends on gaining funding for the project, but we hope that we will be able to better understand the battle, its causes and consequences, and bring this little known episode in the history of both England and Scotland to the attention of a much wider public.

To date we have only discovered a few of the questions and we know that the next year or so will raise many more. We hope that the project will provide at least some of the answers

Clive Hallam-Baker
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The Battle of Otterburn

Some time ago the Trust was asked to become a core partner in the Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership. The Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnerships programme is for schemes led by partnerships of local, regional and national interests which aim to conserve areas of distinctive landscape character throughout the UK. Landscape Partnerships contribute to heritage conservation as an integral part of rural and peri-urban regeneration, aiming to create an holistic and balanced approach to the management of landscape heritage at a landscape-scale. So far the Revitalising Redesdale Landscape Partnership has jumped the first hurdle with HLF and we are now working on the main bid documents to be submitted in July. If the bid is successful the full-scale project will commence at the start of 2018.

The Partnership will include a number of heritage projects of which the largest will be the first major investigation in modern times of the battle of Otterburn, 1388. The heart of the project will be a full archaeological investigation of the site combined with a detailed review of the key primary and secondary sources. This objective is to reconstruct the medieval landscape and then to seek to locate the battle within it. The archaeological investigations will be led by Dr Glenn Ford who will be known to you for his work on many Trust projects including the location of the correct site of the battle of Bosworth. Glenn and his team will be carrying out an initial survey in March.

The picture below shows Glenn with his colleague, Tracey Partida, on their recent visit to Otterburn with Chris Jones of the Northumberland National Park Authority.



change the levels of the church flooring. This led to the discovery of an immense collection of skeletons. The labourers reported that 996 whole skulls were re-interred, as well as a large number that were mutilated in the course of their removal. The remains of nearly 1,200 of the former chief inhabitants of the district were disturbed and removed from their resting place, while approximately 300 or 400 were left where found. No doubt the intra-mural interments had taken place during hundreds of years, but it is possible that some bodies had been buried here after the battle. The documentation of this discovery is sparse and no modern investigation has ever taken place.

Finally, there are plans to give the public viewing area near Otterburn School a complete makeover.

If the project goes ahead it will be directed by the Trust and we will need a lot of help from any members interested in being involved. **If you would like to learn more and register your interest please email me.**

Geoffrey Carter

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Northumberland Battlefield Trail

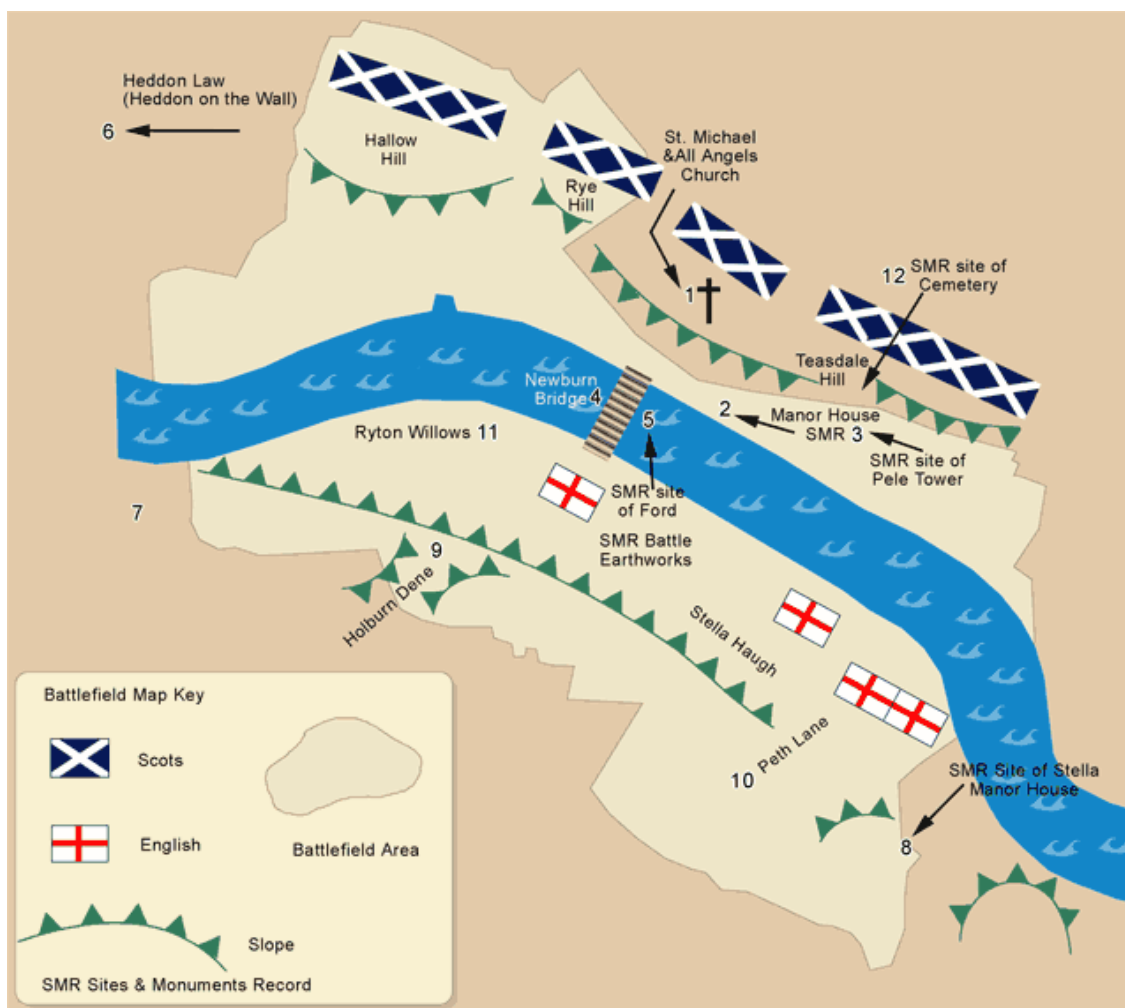
It has long been an ambition to create a battlefield trail for visitors to Northumberland. Recent discussions with Visit Northumberland have shown that there is a lot of support for this idea. Initial work has begun to look at possible routes but things are at a very early stage.

If you would like to be involved in this please email Geoffrey or Clive at the addresses above.

The Battle of Newburn Ford

Following the award of a grant from the Heritage Schools programme of Historic England we have started work on an education pack for schools which will provide teachers with the necessary material to construct lessons and

The map below shows the outline features of the battle.



The events of 28 August 1640 at Newburn Ford have never been accorded great recognition. It was the only action of a decidedly low-key war. The Scots acted with great restraint throughout, doing the minimum necessary to achieve their political objective. The English Army was ill-paid and mutinous and by no means had its heart in the fight. The small number of casualties in the battle - a few hundred at most - indicates that the fighting was not severe.

This would appear to suggest that Newburn languishes in well-deserved obscurity, but in fact the battle was in one respect of the greatest importance. The cost of first trying to get an army together to conduct the war, and then the need to find money to buy the Scots off once they occupied Newcastle after their success at Newburn, meant that King Charles I was forced to recall Parliament in November and deal with it in earnest for the first time in eleven years. Newburn administered the coup de grace to Charles' famous attempt to rule without Parliament. The Long Parliament, destined to sit until the

The pack is being developed by the Trust and Historic England working with teachers from local primary and secondary schools.

If you would like more details please email Geoffrey Carter at the address above.

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