



## **Newbury Garden Archaeology: Project Closure Report**

### **Introduction**

Between 11 June-11 July 2022 the Mercia Region of the Battlefields Trust ran a garden archaeology project at Newbury. This aimed to test whether a sample of 150 households across the first (1643) and second (1644) Newbury battlefields had found archaeological remains relating to the battles when working in their gardens.

### **Methodology**

A six-page leaflet and questionnaire (at Annex) was developed with input from the West Berkshire Council Heritage Team. This was produced in hard copy and digital formats, the latter in Microsoft Teams on the Battlefields Trust tenant, to enable households sampled to respond in either way.

The leaflet introduced the project, explained succinctly what the two battles were about and showed where the fighting occurred. It included a series of 'frequently asked questions' that addressed topics such as handling any data collected, including personal data with a bespoke privacy notice for the project, whether the project would want to photograph, measure or borrow finds, the need for households renting property to seek their landlords' agreement to participate in the survey, and whether notification of finds would impact on householders' property.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of questions asking whether the household had found any of the types of artefacts typically located on Civil War battlefields with a photograph of such finds to aid identification. It also asked for a name, address, and contact details (email or telephone), whether the respondent was happy to be contacted by the project, willing to lend their finds for measurement and photography, or was interested in attending a presentation about the project.

Paper leaflets and questionnaires were produced for all 150 households with a stamped addressed envelope for return of the questionnaire. Leafleting locations were determined based on the most likely areas to have seen fighting or to test theories about the extent of the battle, accepting that no finds was not evidence of absence of such fighting.

Leafleting occurred on 11 June 2022 and covered households on Lambourne Road, Bath Road, Speen Hill, Kimbers Drive, Sutton Road (all Speen, RG14) and Love Lane, Shaw, RG14. These were all locations associated with the second battle of Newbury. Leafleting also took place on Essex Street, Glendale Avenue, Bunkers Hill, and Cheviot Close in the Wash Common area (also RG14) and associated with the first battle of Newbury.

The Trust's Research and Threats Coordinator along with three local volunteers delivered the leaflets and questionnaires.



## Outcome

Response rates were low. Only 11 completed questionnaires (two online and nine in hard copy) were received or 7.3% of the 150 distributed. Two further hard copy questionnaires were returned but these were completely blank with one containing promotional material about Wash Common Conservatives.

Of the completed questionnaires, eight were from locations associated with the first battle of Newbury (seven from Essex Street and one from Battery End) and three from locations associated with the second battle of Newbury (two from the Speen side – Speen Lane and Kimbers Drive - and one from Love Lane on the Shaw side of the battlefield). This perhaps suggests that there is more local interest in the first Newbury battlefield than the second Newbury battlefield, though the numbers of responses are probably too small to be certain about this. There were also no responses from Essex Street further west than the junction of Essex Street and Cary Lane, tentatively suggesting interest was also greater the closer a householder lived to the main area of action, though correlation and causation are not the same thing.

No battlefield related finds were made. From Essex Street a large cauldron type object, a clay smoking pipe, and a shoe for a pony or mule were identified as finds by respondents and at Battery End some iron working slag. Whilst some of these could conceivably have come from the first battle, none could be conclusively linked to it. All those finding objects were happy for them to be photographed and measured.

Nine of the respondents were happy to be contacted about their response and eight were interested in attending a presentation about the project.

The response rate, whilst disappointing, was not unexpected and the project allowed the Battlefields Trust to engage 150 households about the battles of Newbury that it would not have had the opportunity to do so otherwise. Several respondents also commented that whilst they had not found anything battlefield related when they gardened in the past, they now knew what they were looking for. On this basis, the project also increased awareness about battlefield archaeology and raised the possibility of future finds being reported to the Battlefields Trust

## Lessons identified

Engagement with the West Berkshire Heritage Team was invaluable as they helped shape the leaflet and questionnaire and were willing to provide the project wider exposure through their social media accounts. The team's Finds Liaison Officer was also prepared to examine any finds made. Future projects of this type should work with local council Historic Environment teams.

One respondent questioned the *bona fides* of the project because they were unable to identify anything on the Battlefields Trust website when they came to fill in the



questionnaire. This was subsequently put in place, but any future project involving data collection from the public should ensure this is present before the project is launched.

Consideration of data protection aspects by the project was vital in providing assurance to respondents that their data would be properly handled. This is an essential element of any project.

The Battlefields Trust should provide details on its website about potential battlefield finds, particularly for 17<sup>th</sup> century battles, to aid identification of such finds by the public.

Ideally, respondents should be encouraged to complete an online questionnaire as that reduces the burden of data analysis, but respondents in the project seemed to prefer hard copy over a digital format. Future projects of this type might wish to consider a mix and match approach whereby some households receive paper leaflets and questionnaires and are given an option to reply using a stamped addressed envelope or digitally and some with only the option for a digital response to test whether this has any impact on response rates. Such an approach would also allow more households to be targeted without increasing costs substantially.

Simon Marsh  
Battlefields Trust Research and Battlefields Threats Coordinator

7 October 2022



# Battles of Newbury Garden Archaeology Project



## Do you have history in your garden?

You may not realise, but your house and garden is located on a major battlefield of the English Civil War which took place between 1642-1646. The Battlefields Trust, a national charity dedicated to promoting battlefields as educational and historical resources, is keen to learn what you might have found in your garden that could assist understanding of the battle. Can you help?

We are running a pilot project to see whether householders that live in properties on the battlefields of first Newbury (1643) or second Newbury (1644) have found objects related to the fighting when they have dug in their garden. You have received this letter because you are one of those householders.

## How you can help

Overleaf is a list of the types of objects typically found on Civil War Battlefields. The Battlefields Trust would like to know if you have found any of these items in your garden, whether you still have them, and, if so, whether we might be allowed to weigh and measure them. Weighing and measuring finds, particularly, lead bullets assists the understanding of what type of weapon fired them and therefore what types of troops were fighting in that area of the battlefield.

You can respond to this online questionnaire using the following link <https://bit.ly/NewburyGardenArch> or by completing the attached questionnaire and sending it back to us using the stamped addressed envelope enclosed.



### The First Battle of Newbury, 20 September 1643

A parliamentarian army was attempting to reach London after relieving the siege of Gloucester, but its way was blocked by a royalist army at Newbury. The battle was fought across Wash Common with the parliamentarians occupying the hedgerows on the west side of the Common and the royalists the ground to the east. Fighting lasted all day and despite many attacks the royalists could not break the enemy line. Running short of gunpowder, the royalists withdrew back to Oxford the following day, allowing the parliamentarians to reach



## Frequently Asked Questions

**How will you use the information I provide?** We will map the finds using the address you provide. Your personal details will not be included on the map and they will only be used to contact you if you agree we can do this. We will use the information about finds to better understand the battles at Newbury and may use the mapped information in a future publication to make it more widely available. We will share details of the finds and their location (but not your personal details) with the Portable Antiquities Scheme (see [www.finds.or.uk](http://www.finds.or.uk))

**How will you look after my personal information?** We will hold your personal information securely. Only a handful of people within the Battlefields Trust involved with the project will have access to this information. We will hold your personal details for six months after the close of the project and then delete it. At any time you can ask us to delete your personal information. A full privacy statement is available at the end of this leaflet.

**Would you like to photograph of my finds?** Yes please. You can email photos of any finds you have to [mercia@battlefieldstrust.com](mailto:mercia@battlefieldstrust.com) using the title line 'Newbury Garden Archaeology' or print them out and include with the attached questionnaire. Please include your contact details if you are emailing photographs.

### **The Second Battle of Newbury, 27 October 1644**

After a major victory in Cornwall, a royalist army advanced to relieve the sieges at Basing House and Donnington Castle. After lifting the siege at Donnington they were faced by three combined parliamentary armies. The royalists were positioned on the open ground between and within the villages of Speen and Shaw, north of Newbury. The parliamentarians split their army with the largest part marching around the royalists to attack the village of Speen from the west with the rest planning to fall on Shaw from the east. But it was late in the day by the time the parliamentarians were ready and whilst the attack on Speen was largely successful, the fighting around Shaw saw the parliamentarians defeated. Nightfall ended the fighting and the royalists escaped the battlefield and returned to Oxford. Subsequent recriminations in Parliament about the battle led to the creation of the New Model Army,

**Will I need to give my finds to someone?** It would be helpful to borrow your finds - we will provide a receipt - to allow the Portable Antiquities Scheme to photograph them. If you don't want to lend your finds, we can come to you to weigh, measure and photograph them, if you are happy for us to do so.

**I rent my house, does this mean I can't participate in this project?** You will need to obtain the permission of the landlord before you can participate.

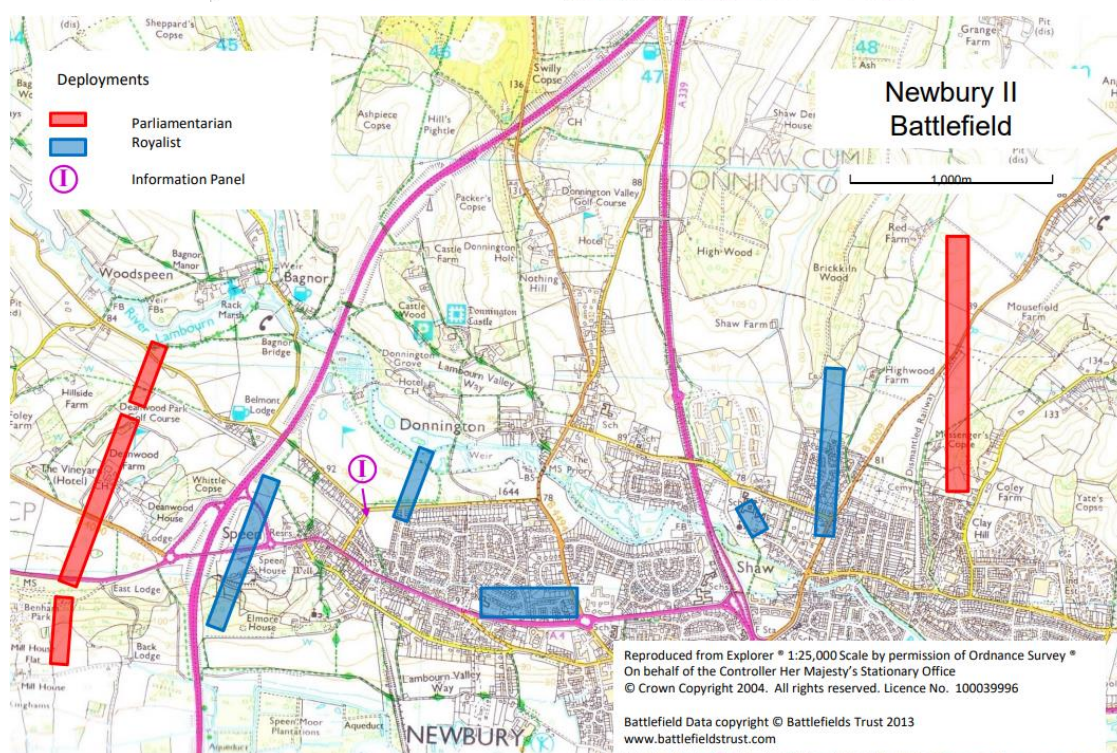
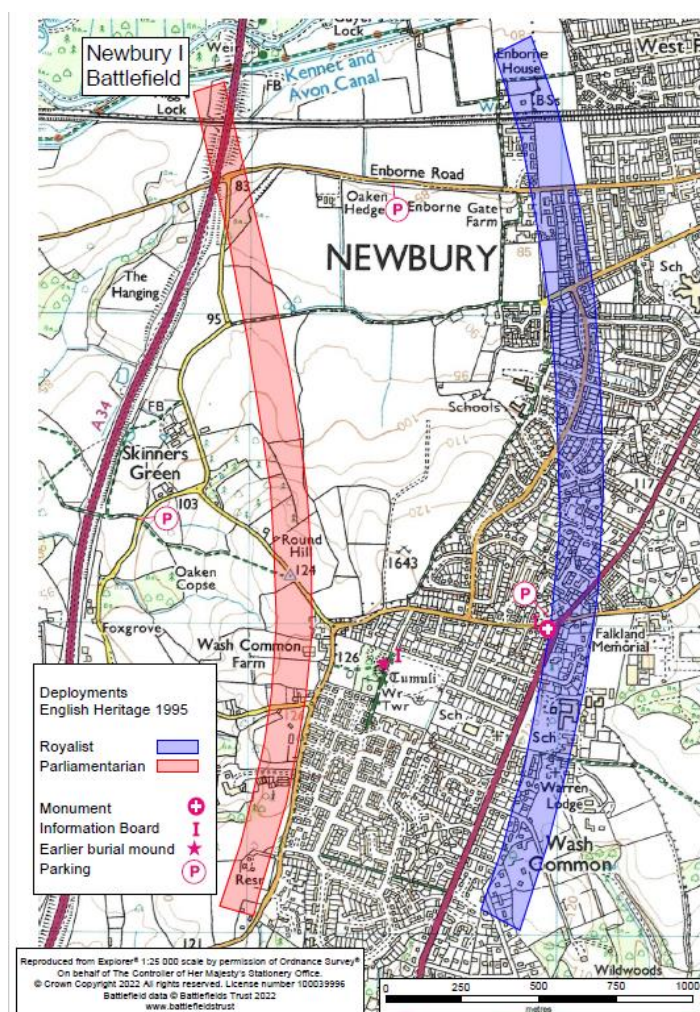
**Will telling you about my finds have implications for my property and what I can do there?** Declaring finds should have no impact on your property. The battlefield registration for the first Newbury battlefield will not be changed as a result of any finds. Historic England has rejected attempts to register the second Newbury battlefield because it is already too developed; archaeological finds there will not change this decision.

**How can I learn more about the project?** Please contact [mercia@battlefieldstrust.com](mailto:mercia@battlefieldstrust.com).





# Newbury I & II Battlefields





## **Battlefields Trust Newbury Garden Battlefield Archaeology Project Privacy Statement**

At the Battlefields Trust we take your privacy and personal data seriously and we are committed to letting you know how we use your personal information and to do so responsibly.

References to “we”, “us”, “or “our” in this Privacy Policy are references to the Battlefields Trust, a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, registered company number: 2786730; and a charity registered in England and Wales, registered charity number: 1017387.

### **1. Information about you**

1.1 For the purpose of this battlefield archaeology project we will collect personal information from you when you respond to our project questionnaire. This will include your name, home address, telephone number and/or email address.

### **2. Our use of your information**

2.1 Your personal information will only be used to support this battlefield archaeology project. We will use your address details to map the location of any finds you tell us about and may publish this information in the future. No details of who lives at the address will be published. If you give us permission, we may use your email address or telephone number to contact you to follow-up on the information you have provided or to let you know more about the project.

### **3. Security**

3.1 We will hold your data securely and take reasonable precautions to prevent the loss, misuse or alteration of information you give us. We may communicate with you by email. Such communications won't be encrypted and if you would prefer us not to communicate with you in this way, please let us know using the address in para 6.1 below.

3.2 Whilst we endeavour to keep our systems and communications protected against viruses and other harmful effects we cannot bear responsibility for all communications being virus-free.

### **4. Retention**

4.1 We will keep your personal data until six months after the end of the project, when it will be deleted.

### **5. Microsoft Forms**

5.1 The online form available to respond to this questionnaire uses Microsoft Forms which is a third-party service. Microsoft may process some of your data through cookies in order to deliver this service. Details of Microsoft's privacy policy can be found at: [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#)

### **6. Other information**

6.1 At any time you can have the right to be informed about the information we hold about you and the purposes we are using it for. You can ask us to stop or restrict our processing of your information, require us to correct information we hold about you that is wrong or to erase all the information we hold about you. You can also ask for a machine-readable copy of your information to provide to other organisations or individuals. If you want us to do any of these things then please email us at [info@battlefieldstrust.com](mailto:info@battlefieldstrust.com) or write to Battlefields Trust, Kemp House, 152 City Road, London EC1V 2NX.

6.2 The Data Controller is the Battlefields Trust. Its Chair can be contacted at [chairman@battlefieldtrust.com](mailto:chairman@battlefieldtrust.com)

6.3 If you are dissatisfied with the way the Battlefields Trust has processed your personal data you should raise your concerns with us. If you are dissatisfied with the way we have handled your complaint you can ask the Information Commissioner to look into the matter. Details about how to do this can be found at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.





# Battles of Newbury Garden Archaeology

## Questionnaire (see <https://bit.ly/NewburyGardenArch> for an online version)

Have you found any of the following items in your garden?

1. **Bullets** - these were fired by muskets, carbines and pistols. They are made of lead.

Yes/No.

If yes, how many?



2. **Slugs** - these were bullets that had been hammered into a lozenge shape to make them fit a firearm, sometimes because the right sized ammunition was not available.

Yes/No.

If yes, how many?



3. **Quartered/halved bullets**- these are bullets that were cut in half or into quarters. Once fired they would split into two or four pieces, causing more damage.

Yes/No.

If yes, how many?



4. **Case shot** - these look like bullets but have flattened sides. They are fired from a piece of artillery in a case with other bullets. The firing process forced the bullets in the case together flattening their round surfaces. (Photo: G Foard)

Yes/No.

If yes, how many?



5. **Round shot** - these are balls made of solid iron or lead that were fired from a piece of artillery. (Photos: G Foard)

Yes/No.

If yes, how many?







6. **Powder caps** - these are the lead tops from powder flasks or bandolier canisters which hold powder for muskets, carbines or pistols. They were sometimes accidentally lost in the heat of battle. (Photos G Foard)



Yes/No.

If yes, how many?

7. **Anything else** - if you have found anything else that you think might be battle related, let us know.

8. What is your name, address and contact details?

Name:

Address:

Email/Contact telephone number:

9. Are you happy for us to contact you using the above information?

Yes/No

10. Would you be willing to allow us to weigh, measure and photograph your finds?

Yes/No

11. Would you be willing to allow us to borrow your finds so the Portable Antiquities Scheme can record them directly?

Yes/No

12. Would you be interested in attending a presentation about the pilot project and what it has discovered?

Yes/No