

The Richard III Society

Promoting research into the life and times of Richard III since 1924

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, Founder: S Saxon Barton



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The battlefield of Bosworth under threat

The Richard III Society, along with many others such as The Battlefields Trust, is appalled to learn of the planning application by Horiba Mira Ltd to build a testing facility for driverless cars on part of the site of the historic battle of Bosworth where in 1485 King Richard III lost his life and crown. We have written to the relevant planning authority, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, to voice our strong objections on behalf of our worldwide membership.

It is even more disheartening that news of this application was only made public on the 22 August, the very anniversary of the battle, just a week before it is due to be considered by the council's Planning Committee on the 28 August. There are many interested parties whose views should have been sought earlier and it is of considerable concern that so little time has now been allowed for these voices to be heard.

The site of the battle of Bosworth is of vital national and local importance, the land under threat even more so given its proximity to the area now identified as being where King Richard III fought his last stand. Bosworth is one of just 46 battlefields given registered status by Historic England.

The Richard III Society urges Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and all those involved with this planning application to take note of the outpouring of objections from interested parties who care about the integrity of the battlefield and its value to our heritage.

At the very least the Planning Committee should put this application on hold and allow a proper and comprehensive assessment to be made of its impact on the battlefield, its archaeology and its tourism value. To give approval without such consideration and to ignore the many objections received would be a betrayal of our heritage and set a dangerous precedent.

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Further comments:

The Society's Chairman, **Dr Philip Stone**: 'Is this the best place they could find? This is a green-field site, as well as being a place where a king died in battle and where a new dynasty was born. As can be imagined, members of this Society have no love for the Tudors but that doesn't mean we approve of such wanton damage to a heritage site. I ask the Council to think again.'

The historian **Michael K. Jones**, author of *Bosworth 1485, Psychology of a Battle*: 'The battlefield is a site of major historical importance and the encroachment upon it set out in the planning application would be significant, preventing important ongoing archaeological research. In this case, it is in the national interest that protection of our heritage should be paramount.'

For further information contact Dr Philip Stone: e-mail chairman@richardiii.net or telephone 01634 581547

About the Richard III Society

With a worldwide membership and local branches the Society is actively engaged in original research through its own initiatives and through collaboration with other institutions bodies and scholars. Through the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust, a charitable body established by the Society, we publish important academic works and make research grants. The Society publishes an annual journal, *The Ricardian*, with original articles on fifteenth century history and a quarterly members' magazine the *Ricardian Bulletin*. www.richardiii.net