



# Introduction

The Battle of Stoke Field took place on 16 June 1487 and is the last, often forgotten, Battle of the Wars of the Roses. The Battlefield witnessed the death of up to 7,000 soldiers and the river is said to have ran red with their blood. The Battle took place between Lancastrian King Henry VII and Yorkist rebel forces that had been loyal to the previous King, Richard III and were now supporting the pretender to the throne Lambert Simnel.

Stoke Battlefield is the county's only registered battlefield.

For more information, to download a trail leaflet and watch the video trail go to:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/battleofstokefield](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/battleofstokefield)  
or  
[www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/warsoftheroses/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=42](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/warsoftheroses/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=42)



## getting to the battlefield

### By bus

The battlefield is located near number 90 bus route from Newark to Nottingham and the number 91 bus route from Bingham to Newark. Outside Eden Hall spa entrance.

### By car

There are laybys located on the left hand side and the right hand side of the Fosse Road about 300 yards from the start of the battlefield trail.

### By Coach

There are no dedicated coach drop-off points or parking but it is possible to use the laybys located on the left hand side and the right hand side of the Fosse Road about 300 yards from the start of the battlefield trail.

### By bicycle

The closest national network cycle route is the R64.


### Accessibility

Please note that the battlefield site is located on open working farmland and dogs should be kept on a lead. Please stick to the paths identified in the trail. The ground can be uneven and muddy in places. You are advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear. Extra care is needed near the busy roads.

The whole route will take about 1.5 hours. The site is unsuitable for people with mobility problems and buggies.

There are no toilet facilities near site.

Working in partnership with



# The Battle of STOKE FIELD



16 June 1487



Self-guided  
Heritage Trail

Battle of  
Stoke Field  
16 June



## Begin your trail...

### Panel 1

#### The Background to the Battle

Start your trail of the Battle of Stoke Field at the bottom of Trent Lane (highlighted on the map). From this point you should see the first information panel on your left. This will give you some information about the lead up to the Battle.

From this point, follow the track (Trent Lane) in front of you for about 10 minutes until you meet another track (Humber Lane) that joins from the right. You should now see panel two on your left.

**Please do not enter the lane on your right (Humber Lane). This is private land and there may be working farm machinery using this for access.**

### Panel 2

#### How the Battle was fought

This point gives you a view across the fields, similar to what the two opposing forces would have seen at the time. The information panel will give you further information on how the Battle was fought.

Now follow the left track, Trent Lane, that bends round and down towards the river. Once you reach the river turn right and walk through the hedge boundary in front of you. Follow the left-hand path along the edge of the field keeping the river on your left. Continue on this path towards a wooded area where you should come across panel number three in front of the 'Red Gutter'. This should take you about 30 minutes.

### Panel 3

#### The End of the Battle

You are now standing at the point where thousands of fleeing rebel soldiers were killed whilst trying to escape from the battlefield. The Red Gutter is thought, by some, to be named after the blood that ran down it, others believe it is named after the red clay soil there. You can find out more about this on the information panel.

From the Red Gutter, follow the path and keep the wooded area on your right and the hedge on your left. Go through the concrete block barrier and continue on the path in front of you, again keeping the wooded area on your right until you come across panel number four on your left on the bend before the church. This should take about 10 minutes.

**Please do not enter the wooded area this is private property and potentially dangerous.**

### Panel 4

#### The Battle Burials

From this point you should be able to see the route of the fleeing rebel army towards the river and the Church of St Oswald's. There has been a church on the site since the 13th Century. The informational panel here will give you more information about how the dead were buried after the battle.

Be sure to enter the Church of St Oswald's (which is normally unlocked) and see the displays from the previous commemorations in 1987. The gate to the church is on your left just before the archway.

Now, follow the road past the church and Stoke Hall on your left. Go under the archway and through the village until you reach the junction where School Lane meets Fosse Road. Turn right and the fifth and final panel is on your right. This should take about 15 minutes.

### Panel 5

#### The Medieval Village of East Stoke

The medieval village was not located where the current village is but further back towards the church. There is still some evidence left of where the medieval village once stood. The village played a key role in the battle. You can find out more about this on the information panel located at this point.

This concludes the Battle of Stoke Field trail. To return to where you started at point I, follow the Fosse Road to the right. This should take about 20 minutes.



Don't forget you can download the video trail giving first-hand accounts of the battle from: [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/battleofstokefield](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/battleofstokefield)