

**Regarding the plan on the part of Mira to construct a “Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) testing track, a control tower and storage building, ground works, landscaping and associated infrastructure” which would lie on part of the official registered Bosworth Battlefield. Planning application no. 18/00425/FUL**

Both the Executive Committee and the society's members would like to state their objection to the plan to construct an automotive test track, which would not only lie on part of the registered battlefield of Bosworth, but also almost entirely lie over land which was a part of the larger battle site.

The 1485 Battle of Bosworth was one of the most defining moments in English history. Not only did it witness the death of an anointed monarch, Richard III, the last English king to die in battle, the last of the House of York and the last of the Plantagenet line, but it also heralded in the Tudor Dynasty. Whether we like the outcome or not, it cannot be denied that the fate of England was changed that day.

As well as nobles whose names are known, many unknown soldiers lost their lives during the battle, and it is believed that many of their bodies still lie in the ground there. It is a place to remember the sacrifice of all who lost their lives on that fateful day, and not one which deserves to have an asphalt test track built over it, even in part.

Many interested parties, including Historic England, the Battlefield Trust, Leicestershire County Council and Mike Ingram (Battlefield Historian) have stated that such a development would have a serious impact on an important area of the battlefield, as it is thought that this is where the rebel army approached, and likely where the French forces formed up and where Henry Tudor's artillery were situated.

Apart from opposing the direct destruction of this part of the battlefield, we also do not believe that any mitigation efforts planned would be enough to ensure that there would not be loss of potential archaeological discoveries in the future.

In addition, there is also the concern in regards to the large number of heavy vehicles that would make their way along the rural Fenn Lane during part of the construction period, and this does not even take into account any noise pollution that the new development itself could create once in use.

It is also important to note that a Bosworth Battlefield Conservation Plan was produced in 2013, and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council have produced a Heritage Strategy for the years 2018 to 2023, both of which would be negatively affected by the new development.

We proudly stand with Richard III Society (including their American Branch), The Tudor Society, The Battlefield Trust and individual historians and archaeologists in their stance against the development proposed. We also support the petition that is available to sign on [change.org](https://change.org) which was created by one of our committee members, Dianne Penn.

R3LS Executive Committee.

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