

Request from Wroughton History Group for permission to metal detect on Parish owned/leased land

This year, 2025, is the 1200th anniversary of the Battle of Ellendune. Although other locations have been suggested for the location of the battle, it is highly likely that it was fought in the vicinity of Wroughton. The exact location is unknown, so the aim of the Battle of Ellendune Search Group (BESG) is to try to identify, or at least narrow down, where the battle might have been fought.

The BESG comprises a team of metal detectorists. The members of BESG are all members of the Wroughton History Group (WHG): led by Darwin Turner (a qualified archaeologist and experienced metal detectorist), with Paul Bailey, Graham Bailey, Helen Rayner, David Butler and Bev Margerison. BESG is a sub-group of the WHG.

A map of the proposed search area is attached (within green circle).

BESG is contacting the landowners to get permission to detect on their land. Permission has already been given by Rita Kemble to detect on her land, and WHG have longstanding permission from SBC to metal detect on their land.

The team will be looking primarily for ferrous metals including spear heads, arrow heads, shield bosses, remnants of helmets and mail etc. It is expected that finds will not be too far below the surface. A careful record will be made of the location of any finds and, if necessary, professional archaeologists will be called in e.g. if there is danger of disturbing stratified archaeological contexts.

Any finds will be reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme or other relevant body.

If there is sufficient evidence to prove the location of the battle, or indeed, if evidence of any other archaeological site is found, a report will be made to Historic England and the Battlefield Trust as relevant.

Diane Archer

Wroughton History Group

Request: Grant permission for the WHG sub-group Battle of Ellendune Search Group to undertake metal detecting on Parish Council owned and leased land.