

Battle of Bosworth

The Battle of Bosworth

Richard reigned for just over two years. During that time there is little evidence of widespread opposition to him, although there was a rebellion in October 1483 led by Henry Tudor, one of the few surviving Lancastrian claimants to the throne. Henry had also promised to marry the eldest daughter of Edward IV and Elizabeth which would unite the houses of York and Lancaster. To many affected by the Wars of the Roses, this seemed highly desirable.

Henry Tudor made another attempt on the throne in August 1485 meeting Richard's forces near Dadlington in Leicestershire. Little is known of the battle, but it appears that Richard had a larger force than Henry and came close to winning.

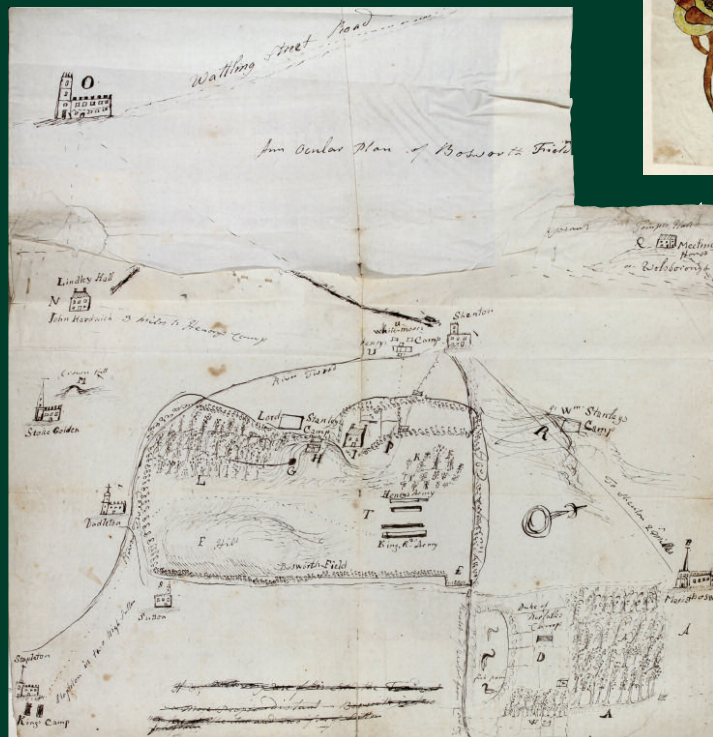
However, we do know that Richard led his own men and fought bravely to the end. Historian Polydore Vergil described him as 'fighting manfully in the thickest press of his enemies' when he was killed on 22nd August in what we know as the Battle of Bosworth. Following the battle it was said his body was put on public display and then buried in the Greyfriars Monastery, in Leicester.



Portrait of Henry VII taken from an original painting in the possession of Lady Bedingfield and used by John Nichols in his 'History and Antiquities of Leicestershire' published in 1813.



Tents at Bosworth: An inkwash representation of the troops and tents on Bosworth Field by W. Capon, architect and painter, c1813.



'An Ocular Plan of Bosworth Field' c1810, kept by John Nichols but not used in his published work, conjecturing where Richard would have positioned his army.



Various artefacts from the battlefield.