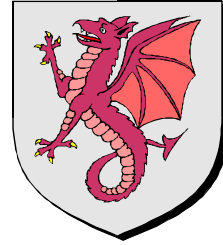


THE RED WYVERN SOCIETY



4th August 2011

Rt. Hon. Philip Hammond MP,
Secretary of State for Transport,
Great Minster House,
Marsham Street,
Westminster,
London.
SW1P 4DR.

Dear Mr. Hammond,

High Speed Rail Link (HS2) and Edgcote Battlefield

I write to express the opposition of the Red Wyvern Society to the proposed route of the High Speed Rail Link (HS2) between London and Birmingham insofar as it crosses the site of the Edgcote Battlefield.

We do not object in principle to the construction of new railway lines and can see that investment in the rail network could have economic and environmental benefits. However, we do not believe that new railway lines or any other development should be permitted on battlefield sites or other important historical sites.

Our reasons for believing that battlefield sites in general and the site of the Battle of Edgcote in particular should be protected are that:

- Battlefields are of great cultural significance in that they are the locations of important events in our history that should be preserved for study and in commemoration of those who fought and died there.
- Many Battlefields are yielding important information about the course of the Battle and the nature of warfare and life in general at the time they were fought. If Battlefield sites are developed this destroys any remaining archaeological evidence of the battle.
- Battlefields are important to local communities as they contribute to a sense of 'place' and to the identity of the area.
- Battlefields are important for recreation and the economy as many people choose to spend time visiting battlefields and at the same time spend money in the location. Neither the people of today nor future generations should be denied access to the important historical landscapes that are represented by battlefields.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Waite
Organiser

Note: The Red Wyvern Society is a historical society that specialises in presenting re-enactments and living history displays of the fifteenth century including the Wars of the Roses of which the Battle of Edgcote was a part. Further information about the society is available on our website www.red-wyverns.org.uk or on request.