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# Hundreds of 'Vikings' invade Derbyshire country house

The peaceful grounds were turned into a large heathen camp

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By **Joseph Ash** Trainee reporter

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 Hundreds of invading 'Vikings' and warriors from the 'Anglo-Saxon army of Mercia' re-enact the Battle of a Thousand Spears (Image: Rod Kirkpatrick/F Stop Press)



Hundreds of Vikings and rival warriors from the "Anglo-Saxon army of Mercia" descended on a [popular park in Derbyshire](#). The axe-wielding, mead-drinking warriors were part of The Vikings, Britain's largest and oldest Viking-age society, who are dedicated to recreating the early medieval period.



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marketplace offering people a chance to sample Viking goods and delicacies. Pottery, fabrics and replica axes were just a few of the items available for visitors to purchase.

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Bottles of mead proved to be popular with locals, with a handful of stalls dedicated to selling the alcoholic beverage made by fermenting honey mixed with water, and sometimes with added ingredients. Other popular stalls were the collection of weapon shops, including the chance to purchase axes, spears and longbows.

Outside the marketplace, visitors could witness "Vikings" interact with each other across the many different clans set up around the park. Children could practice their archery skills and even go into a mini battle to see if they had what it takes to be a Viking warrior.

With Derby having a rich Viking history it is no surprise so many flocked to the event. The city's name can be tracked back to the Viking language, with "Der" meaning deer, and "by" meaning farm, meaning the translation of Derby is "deer farm".

Many dramatic recreations of historical Viking events took place over the weekend. Included in these was the Battle of Brunanburh, a real life battle in 937 AD.

A battle for control of the county, the conflict saw King Aethelstan of Wessex face off against the combined forces of Jorvik and Dublin - a historical battle which saw the forging of a most unlikely alliance between the three northern Viking Kings.

The recreation of this battle saw arrows fly through the sky, axes crash into shields and spears clatter Viking helms as hundreds of trained re-enactment members took their place on the football-pitch sized battle field. Eventually, the Anglo Saxon army led by King Aethelstan triumphed over the invading Vikings.

Amid the number of large battles, experts from the society got to demonstrate their abilities in a number of crafts. Cavalry, missiles and nautical displays allowed for horse riding, archery and sailing skills to be put to the test.

**Look below for pictures of the event:**





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The event was held by re-enactment group The Vikings

(Image: Rod Kirkpatrick/F Stop Press)

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Hundreds of Vikings descended on Locko Park

(Image: Rod Kirkpatrick/F Stop Press)





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Replica Viking décor was hung around the large camp

(Image: Derby Telegraph)



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