

Raven's Wing

30/06/2002

To the Men and Women of the Raven, Greetings.

Hi Everyone,

We have had a busy month and most of us have managed to get to one or other of our shows. Dave has a report on Yeovil as I wasn't there. I did manage to get to Rookwood with Mo and we managed to keep the kids occupied all day, it only rained when we tried to bury one of the kids! We thought it might be a good idea to hold a Viking funeral and needed a body.

Tony, Simon and I represented us at the Dunbury School Fete, when Tony arrived he announced that he had come early to help put the camp up; as I had just finished putting it up I suggested that he had better stay late to help me pack up. Simon turned up in time for the "Battle" which consisted of a couple of single combats, us against twenty odd kids and then a couple more single combats, we were knackered!

Not long after we had finished the heavens opened and the face painting stall moved under our sail!

Basing House was fun, Friday was for school visits; at first we were hanging around doing nothing. Eventually the hordes turned up and we never stopped. The kids liked us best as we had some hands on activities unlike the other re-enactors. The Romans were humourless and told the kids nasty things about us! This led Steve to train up a band of little warriors and lead them on a raid to the Roman camp; for some reason that didn't improve their sense of humour.

There was no programme for Saturday and Sunday so we just set up our own arena and talked to the punters when they came round. We did a few combats but soon ended up just playing with the kids. We took turns being beaten up by the little angels while less brave/fool hardy warriors talked to the adults. This worked fine on Saturday and by all accounts on Sunday too; sadly I had to work on Sunday.

When I finished work I drove straight to Basing House to collect my gear etc. Simon, Sara and Steve were pleased with themselves as they got some children to pack up most of the camp! As soon as I was loaded up we finally left.

The next event is Hounslow and the details are included, see you all there!

Roger

Yeovil Report

Having left bright and early on what turned out to be a glorious day, we immediately fell victim to A303 Caravan Alley; what should have taken us about an hour and a quarter actually ended up around two and a half hours.

However, undeterred, we arrived to discover, amongst the tulip beds of a delightful little church garden, that re-enactors from various periods had made themselves quite at home. Mo, Donna and Steve had already got the sail and tents up, and were putting the finishing touches to the LHE prior to invasion by public.

Once we got the fire started by borrowing some hot coals from the smithy next door, Kath set to preparing a lunch of bread(s), stew, griddle cakes and steak, which from the lack of any left-over, I guess went down quite well.

Maria completed the LHE complement with her grisly display of leeches and medicinal potions.

The warriors (Steve, Mo, Taco, Neil, Mark, Tony, Greg, Merlin, Andy & I) did our best lounging around between the two arena events, weapons demonstrations and photo opportunities (of which there were many!).

The morning arena event was punctuated by Steve, struggling manfully to raise his voice to a level that could be heard over the Church bells, as he described the various combinations of nasty implements we use to maim each other with! Susie, bless her little naalbinded socks, played a much appreciated water carrier in what turned out to be a relatively intense session for the weather.

The afternoon slot was somewhat more relaxed; Donna portrayed the part of the young slave-wench, whose part seemed to be fairly quickly forgotten as things degenerated into a fight over why Steve had neglected to obtain more than a single female.

The audience didn't seem to be able to grasp the concept of cheering for a side, and by the time the fighting was over, Donna had disappeared off back to the tulip beds! This was followed by a short demonstration of textbook shieldwall formation dancing.

The public showed a lot of interest in all of the demonstrations, and from the feedback from the organisers, they were very impressed by us, and are possibly looking to make this an annual event. Note for next time; better sun-block required!

Dave Hall

Membership Cards & Fees

We have been warned that membership cards will be checked at Hounslow (and possibly also at Kirby Hall, so please make sure you have them with you. If you haven't paid your membership for this year, please get your cheques to Donna asap!

The London Historical Action Spectacular
Bedfont Lakes Country Park, Bedfont Road, Feltham, West London
(Off the Clockhouse Roundabout on the A30, 4 miles East of M25 Junction 13)
Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 July 2002
Plus Schools' Living History Day (also open to the public), Friday 5 July

Information for participants - Please read carefully and help the event to run smoothly. Thank you for taking part in this major new annual multi-period show.

1. Organisers

Event Director (scripts/layout/overall direction): Howard Giles, EventPlan Limited. 01790 763624. Mon 1 to Tues 9 July: 07779 340108.

Facilities Manager (Front of house/ticketing/logistics): Barbara Giles, EventPlan Limited. 01790 763624. Mon 1 to Tues 9 July: 07949 559881

Assistant Event Director: Ian Castle. 020 7722 5542. Tues 2 to Mon 8 July: Via 07779 340108.

Security & Black Powder: Jess & Diane Pickard, J. Pickard Security. 01400 273035. Mon 1 to Tues 9 July: 07931 863785/890929.

Living History Encampment Co-ordinator (Wed 3 to Fri 5 July): Mark Griffin. 07979 756765.

2. Arrival, registration, setting up and camping

Both the main site and modern campsite will be open **Noon Wed 3 to Noon Mon 8 July**. Please note that the main site will be open to visitors every day, with admission charges payable on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The modern camp site is closed to the public.

a) Authentic campers & historical traders. Access via Bedfont Road (follow the special event signing from the A30 at the Clockhouse Roundabout). **Exceptions:** NFOE, WWII LHA and horses should enter via the Clockhouse Lane entrance (next exit from roundabout on from Bedfont Road).

Vehicle access to the living history areas is available as follows:

- Noon to 10 pm Wednesday 3rd
- 8am to 11pm Thursday 4th
- 8am to 9am and 3pm to 11pm Friday 5th July*

Gates will be locked Midnight to 8am. 24-hour security will run throughout the event, with medical cover on site 24hrs Friday to Sunday (on call to modern camp) at HQ compound. The Police will patrol on site during the day, as well as assisting with traffic duties and monitoring issue/return of black powder.

*No unloading during the Schools' Living History Day on Friday 5th 10am to 3pm. If you arrive during this time, you will be required to park up & await the end of activities (3pm) before driving/unloading.

Parking: On-site parking is available for traders and living history site campers. Please note though that for safety reasons, only official and historical display vehicles are permitted to drive around on site 9.30am to 3pm Friday, throughout Saturday 6th and on Sunday until 6pm. Please do your food shopping before you arrive. If you need to drive off site Saturday or before 6pm Sunday, please park in the modern camp site and use the free bus service to and from the main site/ living history areas.

Camp fires must be raised off the ground and the grass underneath watered/protected so it doesn't scorch. Bring your own fire baskets/bricks/metal sheets if you wish to have a fire. Firewood will be provided - don't hoard it, there's plenty - and only use the signed wood piles specifically supplied for this purpose. *Under no circumstances use any other log piles as these are wildlife habitats especially created by the park rangers.*

b) Modern camping for membership card-bearing participants only - no friends, relatives, guests or hangers on, sorry - will be located at Chattern Hill Lake Country Park, Challenge Road, off A377 Ashford Road, Ashford. This park is both attractive and private, with plenty of space and its own lake. Access 8am to Midnight daily. Gates locked at night. 24 hour security.

Directions: Head for Bedfont Road, then follow the special temporary signs (marked MC) to the modern camp site, 2 miles away. The modern camp is just 5 minutes from Bedfont Lakes by our special continuous **free double decker bus service** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 8am to midnight. Don't drive, ride!

NB: You can drive to & park in the daytime public car park adjacent to the main site, open 8.30am to 7pm Fri-Sun. Gates are locked at 7pm and any vehicles are left overnight at owner's risk (not recommended, although our security will patrol).

Camp fires: Sorry, no camp fires on the modern camp. Please note that the log piles on site are wildlife habitats arranged by the park rangers. They must not be touched.

c) "Day Trippers". If you intend to "commute" to the event, use the public car park on Bedfont Road (open 8.30am to 7pm Friday to Sunday). Remember the car park is locked at 7pm, so if you want to stay later, park at the modern camp site and use the free bus. You'll still need to register though (see below).

d) Registration. On arrival, *all* participants must register for security and health & safety reasons. There will be registration points at both the main site and modern camp from Wednesday. This will be a simple process, but **you will need to bring your society membership card or pass in order to gain access to the country park or the modern camp site. No card = no entry, sorry.** Immediate family members arriving with you will be admitted on production of proof of identity. Sorry to sound tough, but unfortunately large events can otherwise suffer from "freeloaders" who do not contribute, yet burden the event facilities.

Please note that friends or non-immediate relatives that wish to visit will need to pay at the public entrance like all other visitors. For safety and security reasons, only participants and their immediate families will be permitted on the modern camp site.

All re-enactors taking part must be paid-up members of groups specifically invited by *EventPlan*. No-one is permitted to invite other groups or individuals without *EventPlan's* express prior agreement.

e) Volunteers and stewards. Those willing to help us set the site up and/or pack up afterwards will be made very welcome indeed. Nothing onerous is required, but many hands make light work! We also still require a few paid stewards and cashiers. Please call 01790 763624 for details.

f) There is **catering** on both sites. Most catering and the **evening beer tent** (for participants only - sorry, no guests from the public) will be on the main site, near the *motte*. Don't drink and drive - use the free bus service to and from the modern camp.

3. Brief event timetable

Wed 3 to Fri 5 July: Set-up.

Fri 5: Schools' Living History Day, 10am to 3pm. Please come and set up ready for this if you can. Bus service between sites runs 8am to Midnight. Evening beer tent on main site from 7pm.

Saturday 6 July

8am: All modern vehicles off period camps/parked by now. Bus service between sites commences.

8.30 to 10am: Main Arena/ Motte Field available for rehearsals/drill: Book via Howard in advance.

8.30am: Main Arena briefing for appropriate society co-ordinators. Meet in centre of arena.

9.30am: Motte Field briefing for appropriate society co-ordinators. Meet in centre of field.

9.30am: Gates open to public.

10am: Living history and arena displays commence.

5pm : Living history and arena displays end.

6pm. Park closes to visitors.

7pm: Beer tent opens.

11.30pm (tbc): Beer tent closes.

Midnight: Last bus to modern campsite. Gates then closed (except for emergencies).

Sunday 7 July

As Saturday except vehicles allowed back onto living history camps from 6pm.

Please vacate site by **Noon Mon 8th**, thank you.

4. Required standards of authenticity and presentation. This event should prove very enjoyable for all participants. However, in return we expect you to meet (or, hopefully, exceed) our simple yet achievable minimum standards of authenticity. Group organisers/COs are asked to ensure in advance of this event that agreed minimum standards will be met and that every member likely to come is fully informed of our requirements. Anyone not meeting minimum standards will be required to immediately put things right, or depart to the modern camp site until sorted. Please don't let us/ your society down on this!

All participants must meet the minimum standards during event opening hours (eg, all obvious anachronisms hidden or removed Friday 10.00am to 3pm, Sat/Sun 9.30am to 6pm). Standards include full correct kit for the era portrayed, plus avoidance of non-period glasses/footwear/smoking, wearing of half kit, eating burgers/drinking from cans, pushing baby buggies etc. These standards do not apply outside of visitor hours, or on the private modern camp site, of course. *We specifically require that participants' spouses and children be either authentically kitted out/dressed, or remain in modern dress during visitor hours.*

Many thanks for your co-operation.

5. Do's & Don'ts

Setting up camp: Don't set up until you have seen our co-ordinator first. If you do, you may have to move.

2am Curfew: No singing/shouting after this time on either site. Groups that insist on offending or keeping others awake won't be invited back.

Rubbish: Place your bin bags in the skips provided. Don't leave them for others to clear up! Don't leave litter, as this kills wild animals.

Health & Safety. As usual, this takes top priority. Think and act safety at *all* times. Although *EventPlan* safety marshals will be on duty throughout during the day, all groups must as usual be *self-stewarding* on and off the field and particularly during the hours of darkness.

Fire: Participants should provide their own personal fire-fighting equipment to augment site fire buckets, as an additional precaution.

Water hazards: Because of deep-water lakes and "wilderness" areas on site, any small children present must be looked after by their parents at all times. All participants must take particular care on site at night. Always keep out of the lakes unless taking part in planned event activities, and only then if you are a strong swimmer. All other re-enactors and visitors should not enter the water at any time.

Calor gas appliances: Following an ultimately fatal accident at a re-enactment during autumn 2001, Calor-gas style appliances *must not* be used inside *closed* tents. Only use them outside or within *open* exterior awnings (although for authenticity reasons, not during visitor hours). SoSkAn members should note that the society has imposed a total ban in the use of these appliances on site at any events.

Weaponry, Licences and explosives. Firearms, other weapons and any blades (even blunts) must never be left unattended (lock them away securely at night). Sharp weapons and cooking implements, for example, should always be kept well out of grabbing range, just in the unlikely case that an unthinking visitor decides it is amusing to wave one around, possibly injuring others as well as his/her self.

All groups/individuals using firearms or black powder must be appropriately licensed. Powder must be signed into the official store overnight and will be subject to Metropolitan Police requirements. Powder issue will be subject to no-site police supervision. Do not allow visitors to touch or pick up any small arms, edged weaponry, sharp objects or anything else that may cause them/you harm.

Alcohol must not be consumed by any participants carrying or using any form of weaponry on site, until after 6pm daily.

Animals. Dogs must be kept on a lead at all times during visitor hours and kept under control thereafter. Horses must keep to designated routes/areas and not exceed a walk if any pedestrians are present. All wildlife must be left alone.

Tape barriers. Only official stewards are permitted between double tape barriers. Re-enactors and especially their children should not attempt to sit between barriers for a better view, as they will be removed for their own safety.

More information

Full information on the event, including participating groups, site plan, display timetable, accommodation, pictures & more can be found on the event web site pages, www.EventPlan.co.uk/Spectacular.htm or call *EventPlan* on the numbers above.

The London Historical Action Spectacular

Please support the Schools' Living History Day (also open to other visitors), on Friday 5 July

We have arranged a timetable of pre-bookable sessions to allow children to spend time looking at particular aspects of history relevant to the National Curriculum - social, domestic and military. Numerous groups have been kind enough to participate, and details are below. The pre-bookable sessions are generally half an hour long and will run four times during the day. They are limited to 3 per class (& three classes from the same year/school per session). Most are already booked and we expect in excess of 1000 children.

Timetable of sessions for Key Stage 1 and 2 pupils

Subject	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
Ancient Greeks (Hoplite Assoc.)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Later Roman Britain (Britannia)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Viking world (1) (Ravens Wing Vikings)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00
Viking World (2) (The Vikings NFPS)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Victorian activities (1) (Hands on History)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Victorian activities (2) (Gunnersbury Museum)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00
Hitler & the Nazis (WWII LHA)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
WWI veteran/ Home Guard 1940 (Echoes from the Past)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00
Home Front policeman, 1940 (Touch the Past)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00

Timetable of sessions for Key Stage 3 pupils

Subject	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
The Norman Conquest* (Conquest)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Medieval music (Trevor James)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
C14th life (Erpyngham Retinue)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00
Charles I (ECWS)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Nelson's navy (HMS)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30
Wellington's army (15 th Hussars)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00
Antarctic exploration (Antarctic Explorers)	10.30	11.00	12.30	1.30
The Western Front 1914-18 (Vickers Machine Gun Society)	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00
WWI dressing station (National Army Museum)	10.30	11.30	12.30	1.30

Request to all - Please be present on Friday and help with ongoing living history displays & also be on hand for any last-minute TV & Radio coverage of the weekend show!

As well as the timed sessions we would like as many participants from all societies – whether covered by the National Curriculum or not – to be present in an ongoing living history role. If you can, come and set up by Thursday night (or in extremis, by 9.30am Friday). Help make this an exciting day for the school children! Many thanks!

Howard & Barbara Giles

London Historical Action Spectacular

– Confirmed timetable for 6-7 July, Version 7, 22.5.02

Doors open 9.30am. Living history & displays commence 10am.

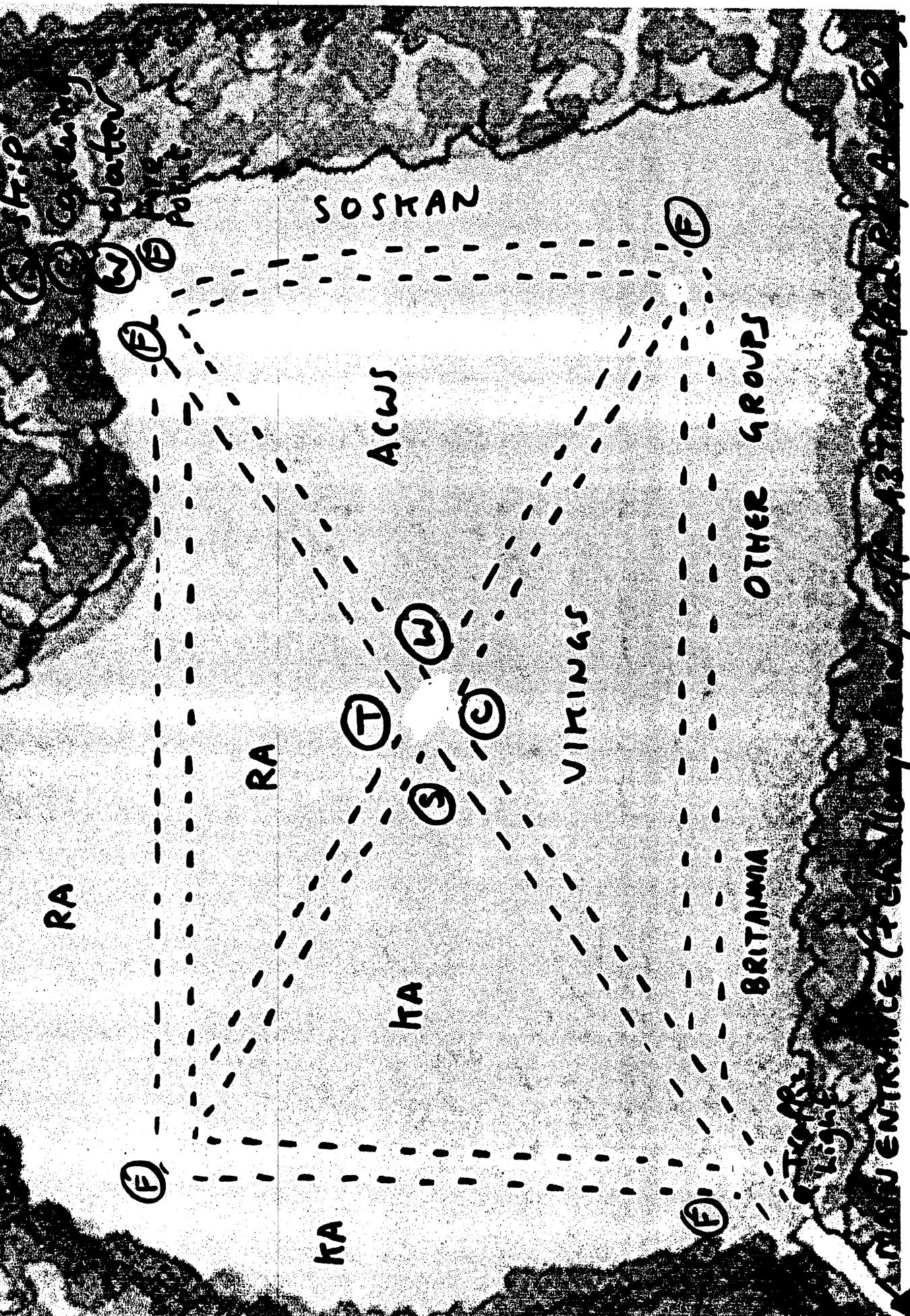
Time	Main Arena	Motte Field	Arts and Historical Crafts field	English Renaissance	Other displays
08.30	Final briefing				
10.00	(Drill practice session available, although open to the public)	Roman Soldiers from the end of empire (<i>Britannia</i>)		An audience with King Henry VIII... are you brave enough to ask a question?	Medieval Music (<i>Trevor James</i>), in the Medieval encampment Firing a Carronade- HMS demonstrate the firing of their deadly naval cannon
10.30		C11th siege commences As the Norman garrison is attacked by Saxon rebels (<i>Conquest & The Vikings</i>)	Renaissance Martial Arts – an introduction to Fiore dei Liberi's C15th martial system, by <i>Schola Gladiatori</i>	Henry VIII <i>continued</i>	Tudor puppets: <i>Robin Hood and Sir Guy of Guisbourne</i> in the Children's area (<i>Perrots Puppet Players</i>)
11.00	English Civil War drill display (<i>The English Civil War Society</i>)	Vikings! A safe battle for kids. (<i>Ravens Wing Vikings</i>)	C17th music & dance (<i>Renaissance Footnotes & The Generall's Musick</i>)	A state visit by Elizabeth I	The arming of a C14th knight (<i>Erpyingham Retinue</i>) at their encampment in the Children's area
11.30	English Civil War soldiers' drill for children (<i>The English Civil War Society</i>). Try your hand at being a pikeman or musketeer!	Napoleonic soldiers and sailors (<i>15th Hussars, 33rd Foot and HMS</i>)	Victorian Music (<i>Richard York</i>)	Elizabeth I <i>continued</i>	Captain Staffage's Victorian Flea Circus. Ridiculous fun from <i>Hogarth's Heroes</i>
Noon	C15th weapons and skills-at-arms (<i>Destrier, The White Company and Trevor James</i>)	Gladiators! Combat from the Roman arena (<i>Britannia</i>)	Wild West Shoot out! In the Wild West area (<i>Wyoming Wild Bunch</i>)	Interval	Charles I and his captors in the C17th encampment (<i>English Civil War Society</i>)
12.30	Military vehicle/London bus display (<i>WWII Living History Association, Cobham Bus Museum and private owners</i>)	C11th siege Part 2 A sally & assault	Traditional Indian Dance (<i>Zamzama</i>)	Soldiers of WWI – life on the Western Front	Firing a Carronade (as 10am)

1.00	The Battle of Brentford, 1642 <i>(The English Civil War Society)</i>	Take part in a Giant medieval dance <i>(The Erpyngham Retinue and Trevor James)</i>	Renaissance martial arts <i>(as 10.00)</i>	1940s music & song part 1 <i>(The Spitfires)</i>	Tudor Puppets <i>(as 10.30)</i>
1.30	As above	Interval	Wild West Shoot out! <i>(as Noon)</i>	Interval	Preparing for the joust <i>Watch as C15th knights are dressed and armed, in the Medieval camp (Destrier)</i>
1.45	Infantry Firepower The development of personal firepower from the longbow to the fearsome German MG42	French & Indian War skirmish in the Motte Field <i>(New France & Old England)</i>	C17th Music and dance <i>(as 10.30)</i>	Soldiers of WWII	As above, plus Firing a Carronade <i>(as 10am)</i>
2.15	Charge! A multi-era display of equestrian skills-at-arms, including jousting by knights in full plate armour	C11th siege Part 3 <i>Norman knights attempt to relieve the castle!</i>	Victorian Music <i>(as 11.30)</i>	1940s Music & Song part 2	The Experimental Weapons Section, 1913. Wacky comedy from <i>Hogarth's Heroes</i>
2.45	American Civil War battle <i>(The American Civil War Society and Southern Skirmish Association),</i> <i>Followed by a brief interval</i>	Gladiators! <i>(as Noon)</i>	Traditional Indian dance <i>(as Noon)</i>	Training for Battle, 1944	Armour and Weapons at Azincourt, 1415 - A talk and demonstration by <i>the Erpyngham Retinue, at their encampment</i>
3.30	The Battle for Normandy, 1944 <i>(The World War II Living History Association)</i>	Vikings! <i>(as 11.00)</i>	C17th Music & dance <i>(as 10.30)</i>	1940s Fashion Show	Tudor puppets <i>(as 10.30)</i>
4.00	Grand Parade of participants, in chronological order	-	Renaissance martial arts <i>(as 10.00)</i>	1940s music & song part 3	Underwear! A (tasteful!) demonstration of what we used to wear by <i>Hands on History, by the Children's area</i>
4.30	-	-	Victorian Music <i>(as 11.30)</i>	-	Medieval Music <i>(as 10.00)</i>

Event closes 5pm, country park closes to visitors 6pm.

TBC: Location for John Stoker's C18th balloon demos.

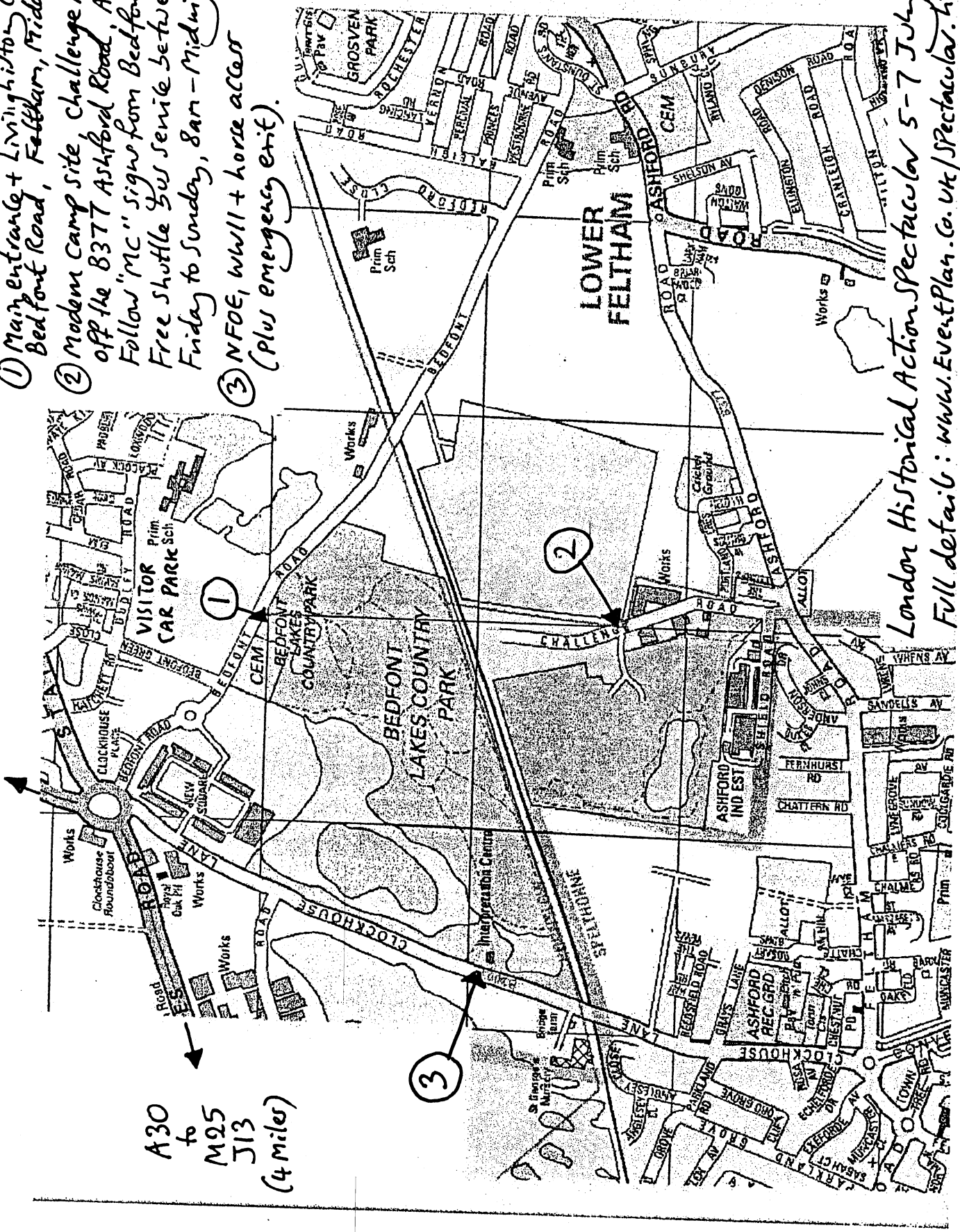
London Historical Action Spectacular: Modern Camp Site, open Noon weds 3 to noon Mon 8 July.
 Please respect the Lam noise curfew



WATER
 POLE
 SKIP
 CATERING
 TROPHY LIGHT
 MAIN ENTRANCE (7 CHALLOUJ ROAD, OFF A3190) (SOUTH OF A14)

M30 LONDON

- ① Main entrance + Livingstone Camps, Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middlesex.
- ② Modern Camp site, Challenge Road, off the B377 Ashford Road, Ashford. Follow "MC" signs from Bedfont Road. Free shuttle bus service between sites, Friday to Sunday, 8am - Midnight.
- ③ NFOE, WWII + horse access (plus emergency exit).



A30
to
M25
J13
(4 miles)

London Historical Action Spectacular 5-7 July
Full details: www.EventPlan.co.uk/Spectacular.htm

London Historical
Action Spectacular
5-7 July
@ 14.5.02

— Tape barrier

Arena gates/start position
in green.

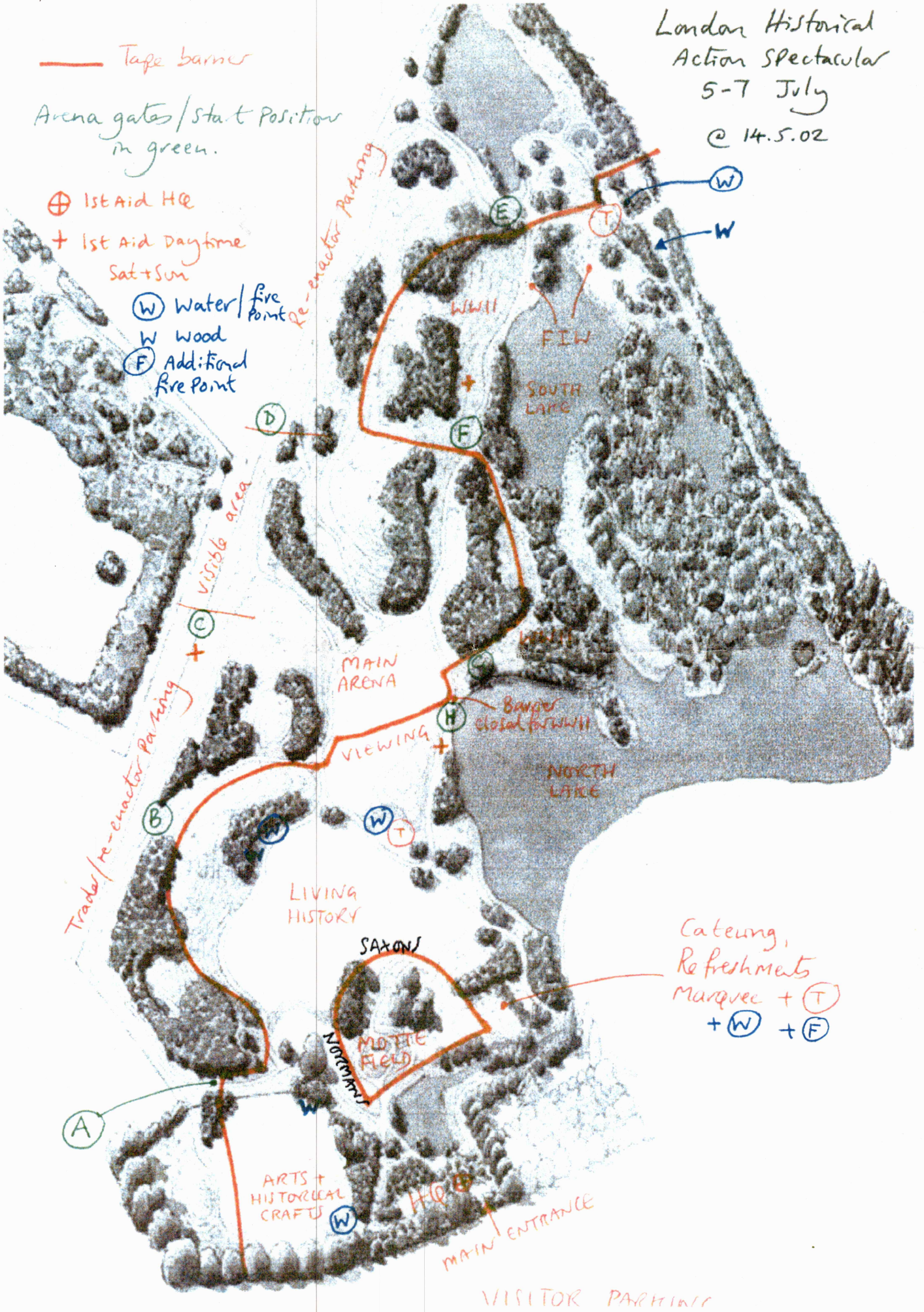
⊕ 1st Aid Hq

+ 1st Aid Daytime
Sat+Sun

(W) Water/fire point

W wood

(F) Additional
Fire Point



Trader/re-enactor parking
visible area

re-enactor parking

MAIN ARENA

VIEWING

LIVING HISTORY

SAXONS

MOTTE FIELD

ARTS + HISTORICAL CRAFTS

MAIN ENTRANCE

VISITOR PARKING

SOUTH LAKE

NORTH LAKE

Catering,
Refreshments
Marquee + (T)
+ (W) + (F)

FIW

Banner closed for WH

NORMANS

Hq