

On Site Information

Arrival on-site

Follow the yellow AA signs onto site, marked "All Performer Traffic". Enter either the Living History encampment or plastic campsite as appropriate. These will officially be open from 4pm on Wednesday 11th, if you arrive early than that you may be asked to park in the public car park and wait until we have finished laying out the campsites.

Plastic camp.

You will be met at the gate, on arrival and given a car pass. The camping will be arranged in areas, by Society and you will be directed to the appropriate area for your group. You should be able to park your car directly behind where you pitch your tent. There will be water points around the edge of the field and bowsers/additional taps in the centre. Portable toilets and rubbish disposal points will also be available around the campsite. No camp fires are allowed on the plastic camp, even for cooking – you must go to the Living history encampment if you want to sit round a wood fire.

Living History Encampment

Again, you will be met at the gate and shown to your pitch. Provided you arrive before 9am Saturday, you may drive to your pitch and unload your car there. Please park your car immediately afterwards, cars will not be allowed on the living history encampment from 9am Saturday to 6pm Sunday, but are only a short walk away for you to lock valuables in overnight. Anyone arriving during show hours, can only erect their tents if they do so in kit and carry it into the encampment by hand – we will do our best to help you with this. Similarly, anyone wishing to leave early on Sunday must dismantle and carry all their kit to their car by hand, whilst wearing costume. Cars will ONLY be allowed back into the encampment once the site is closed on Sunday night at 6pm.

Again, there will be water points, toilets and rubbish disposal points available, although these will be concealed from the public view. There will be several wood piles throughout the camp – if you wish to cut the wood into smaller pieces, this should ONLY be done at these points.

On Site Registration

Once you have pitched your tent, please go to the administration tent to collect your registration card. Maps and timetables will also be available. We would prefer you all to come as individuals, rather than a group member collect them all, so that we can keep a fairly accurate count of attendance numbers, which we will be publishing after the event. Infantry members will have their unit designation written on the card. Everyone who will be wearing

Norman/Breton or Saxon dress anywhere in the public part on the abbey grounds, on Saturday or Sunday, and who does not have the line "kit" already signed off MUST attend a kit check. Anyone who wishes to go on the field and fight with a hand weapon and does not have the line "Combat" signed off, MUST attend a combat check. These will be held throughout the day on Thursday and Friday, Saturday morning and Sunday morning. All archers must attend at least one practise session, for assigning to a unit and ensuring all are following the same commands, and will not have the line "Archery" signed off until they do. Cards must be carried at all times and produced when requested to do so by an English Heritage official, security guard or an officer of The Vikings.

Food Points

There will be at least 4 large vans selling cooked food, one of which will stay open for 20 hours per day. There are very few fast food shops or restaurants in Battle so please do not expect to eat in these without queueing for a long time.

Beer Tent

This will be open during the day to sell soft drinks and for alcohol Friday evening and from 5pm -12pm Saturday and Sunday evening (times subject to confirmation). A band will be playing on Saturday night.

First Aid Cover

St John's Ambulance will be present during show hours. First Aiders will be available, both on the battle field and around the village. They will be identifiable by a green and white armband.

Lost Property

Lost Property should be taken to and reclaimed from the Admin tent. Details of any left after the event will be mailed to all group leaders and the Hastings mailing lists. We will make every effort to return it to you, but any remaining in our hands by March 2007 will be auctioned off to members of The Vikings and the proceeds donated to charity (sorry, but we can't store it for every).

The Show

Living History Display

The village will be open from 10am-6pm, all non-period items and food should be hidden from public view by 9.45am. Officers of The Vikings will do a check before 10am and may request that certain items are removed from your display if they believe them to be non period. They will continue to do checks

throughout the day, looking for things you may have accidentally left out. Remember anyone in kit should not

1. Smoke
2. Wear glasses
3. Eat non-period food (burgers, ice creams etc)
4. Use a camera

If you wish to do any of these activities either hide in a tent, return to the modern campsite or change back into modern clothes. This applies to EVERYONE in period costume.

The Arrival of Harold's Army

This is a march from the Abbey gates, down to the living History encampment through the main battle field and will be the main photo opportunity for the audience. Members of the Norman army, with kit that is neutral enough to be equally appropriate for Saxon may also take part, but no-one dressed as a woman should be in the line.

Water Carriers and Arrow Scurriers

There will be a meeting at 1.30pm in the Admin Tent to organise volunteers into teams – all water carriers should attend bringing the bottles, jugs etc they intend to take onto the field. Bowsers of water will be provided near to the battle field – no alcohol will be allowed onto the field and any containers found to contain alcohol will immediately be emptied on safety grounds. The Norman army did not have women attached to it, so only water carriers in male kit should go onto the field at the Norman end although those in female kit can be at the muster points at meet warriors off the field. Saxon women (dressed as women) may operate behind the lines where they are out of site of the audience. No-one under the age of 13 is allowed onto the field.

Battle Musters

The muster points will only be open for a limited period of time, anyone arriving late will not be allowed to enter and will miss participating in the battle. Cards must be shown on arrival and only those with both the "Kit" and "Combat" lines signed will be allowed to enter. The Vikings retain the right to either request that kit be removed or deny entry onto the field to anyone wearing a non-authentic piece of costume or carrying an illegal weapon, even if the "Kit" check is signed off. The armies will start to move onto the field just after 2.30pm, to be in place to start the actual battle at 3pm.

We hope that everyone will cooperate and make this a show we can all look back and be proud of. We look forward to seeing you all at Battle on 14th and 15th October.

The Vikings Hastings2006 team