

## **Village Guidelines for Hastings 2006**

The village display at Hastings 2006 will be a multi-cultural display of the races and people living in the UK and Northern France in the early/mid-11th century. A sign will be posted at the entry to the encampment explaining to the public that this represents a cross-section of the society of the day rather than merely the people present at the Battle of Hastings.

To camp in the living history encampment (LHE) you must register with the Vikings Living History coordinator, Steven Lines, by 1st September 2006 in order for English Heritage to ensure adequate space, wood and water is to hand. Please fill in the on-line form before this date - you will be notified that you have been allocated the requested space.

You must register the size and occupancy of each tent. Once final registration has opened (1<sup>st</sup> June) each authentic tent will need to be registered.

Pre-registration applies to everyone: members of The Vikings are not exempted. Each group should only register once, and be prepared to include full details of your LHE along with numbers of warriors etc.

No Registration - No admittance: If you aren't registered you will probably not get in. So please pass the word... Do not expect to turn up and be automatically accommodated. Similarly, no-one will be able bring a larger tent than they have registered because we might not have the space for it.

Allocated Camping: LHE camping will be in allocated spaces over which individuals will have no control. We are expecting over 200 authentic tents and English Heritage want them laid out in a specific pattern. Individual owners of tents and/or groups will not be permitted to alter the village plans agreed with English Heritage. This means that no one will be able to pitch where they want, or arrange their tents the way they want, you will all have to camp where we put you. Anyone who camps outside of their allocated space will be removed from site.

Roping Off: Please note that roping off of camps / tents will not be permitted at all within the fully authentic village, so if you insist on roping off your encampment then you should register for the semi-authentic camp.

Two Tier Camp: Notwithstanding the cross cultural nature of the show, we understand that not all reenactment societies have the same approach to authenticity. We will therefore have two parts to the LHE.

1. A fully authentic camp to be run to the same standards as any other UK show run according to English Heritage guidelines.
2. A semi authentic camp in which the intention is to be as authentic as possible but in which allowances will be made for the less attentive re-enactors. Although this will be open to the public on show days, it will not be the camp that visitors are encouraged to visit.

The fully authentic camp rules are explained in the Vikings Society document 'The Village Guide', available as a download from this website . The semi authentic camp will be expected to strive to reach these guidelines and will have to fulfill all Health and Safety requirements.

Please indicate which camp you wish to register for, on application

LHE Inspection: All LHE units will be subject to an authenticity inspection upon erection and there will be periodic inspections throughout the show. You must be prepared to remove or modify any object which does not come up to standard. Inappropriate or

inauthentic units may be demoted from the fully authentic camp to the semi-authentic camp, or if necessary may be removed from the living history altogether.

**Visual Presentation:** All units must look lived in. Tents should have soft furnishings, cooking/sleeping gear etc. Military encampments may be more spartan than family units but should still have period camping equipment on display. Craft displays need not include a sleeping area but should try to display both on-going construction work and the finished product.

**Costumes:** Participants should wear late-Saxon costume, if with a Saxon encampment, and Norman costume in the Norman section of the camps. Minimum levels of authenticity and acceptable costume are explained under the authenticity section of the show information. During show hours, occupants of both villages will be expected to conform to these guidelines – please note, there is no smoking or wearing of glasses (spectacles) allowed on ANY part of the show ground during show hours, when in costume. Use of mobile phones or cameras is also not allowed when in kit – please use the modern campsite or change into modern clothing if you wish to do any of these.

**Arrivals:** You must register with the show admin upon arrival at site, which can be at any time after Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. You will be directed to your camp pitch site which you are obliged to use. All living history units must be erected by 9.30am Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006, and be fully authentic by that time.

**Vehicles:** All vehicles must be off the LHE by 9:00am Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2006. LHE participants vehicle parking will be in allocated areas adjacent to the modern campsite. Once vehicles are unloaded and moved from the LHE area they will not be allowed to be moved back for the duration of the show. It is anticipated that the earliest return to the LHE will be not sooner than 6:30pm on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2006. If you wish to leave before this time you must hand carry your equipment to the car park.

**Wet Weather:** If conditions are excessively wet then vehicular access to the LHE may not be permitted, or else vehicle movements may be restricted. You must be prepared to hand carry your camping equipment from the car parks should the ground be too soft to take vehicular traffic.

**Health and Safety:** Full health and safety information is contained elsewhere within the show website. The following items are specific to the LHE and must be noted. You will be expected to comply with the full H&S regulations under pain of removal from site for non-compliance.

**Fire Separation:** All tents must be pitched at least 2m apart (excluding guide ropes). Please note that this is a legal requirement in the UK. Camp fires must be kept a minimum of 2m from tents where people sleep ; fires are allowed under sails or awnings provided that the material has been fire proofed. Such coverings must be removed if weather conditions make them unstable.

**Campfires:** All camp fires must be contained in a suitable firebox. You are not permitted to dig fire pits. The camp site is an archaeological / historically important area and therefore digging pits or setting fires on the ground are not permitted. All fires must be attended by a responsible adult at all times. Any unattended fire will be extinguished. Fires being left overnight must be suitably banked i.e. all fuel to be burnt down to embers and the embers then covered over with a thick layer of cold ash.

**Firefighting Provisions:** Anyone using a campfire must have sufficient water to hand to extinguish the fire (minimum 5 litres) either in a authentic vessel or concealed modern container. This water must be specifically for fire control i.e. in addition to any drinking water. Further fire fighting equipment will be available from designated, central locations in the village. Nevertheless if you have fire fighting equipment of your own then please let people know about it.

Flammables: Matches, lighter etc. should be stored securely, flammable liquids stored in metal, screw-topped containers and should not be used to light fires. Candles and oil lamps must not be used within tents.

Firewood: English Heritage will supply firewood for the Saturday and Sunday of the show. If you intend to arrive before the weekend and need to use firewood for cooking etc then you will need to buy your own. Please only take wood from the woodpile as you use it. Please do not form your own stockpiles as this inevitably leads to a shortage of general supplies whilst individuals have hidden stashes that go unused.

Wood Chopping: Wood should be chopped in a designated area away from the public thoroughfare. Ensure that all sharp axes are in good condition before using them, and keep them away from the public.

Craft Displays: Workers should keep the safety of the public in mind, at all times. Sharp tools and knives must be stored out of access from the public when not in use. Please do not let members of the public handle sharp implements. Members of the public should not be allowed to try out craft activities or to taste any food cooked in the Living History Encampment.

Dogs: Dogs are allowed on site but must be kept under control at all times, and must be on authentic leashes if in the LHE during show times with public present. Owners must clean up after their pets. You should be aware that horses are used as part of the show. Any dog worrying the horses or posing a problem to the public will be asked to leave site.

Tidying Up: Before leaving the site please ensure that all unused firewood is returned to the woodpile. Ensure all ashes from fires are fully extinguished, and ashes, sand and turf from fireboxes are disposed of in the appropriate containers. Take all refuse with you or ensure it is placed in the rubbish skips.

Security: It is the individual's responsibility to ensure that their property is kept secure at all times. If a tent or camp is to be left unattended, portable items should be locked away. Do not expect other exhibitors in the village to take responsibility for your possessions - this will be impossible with a large crowd of visitors present.

If you have any further questions on the village display, wish to discuss any of the points made or need help getting your gear together please contact Steven Lines using the Hastings 2006 LHE email