

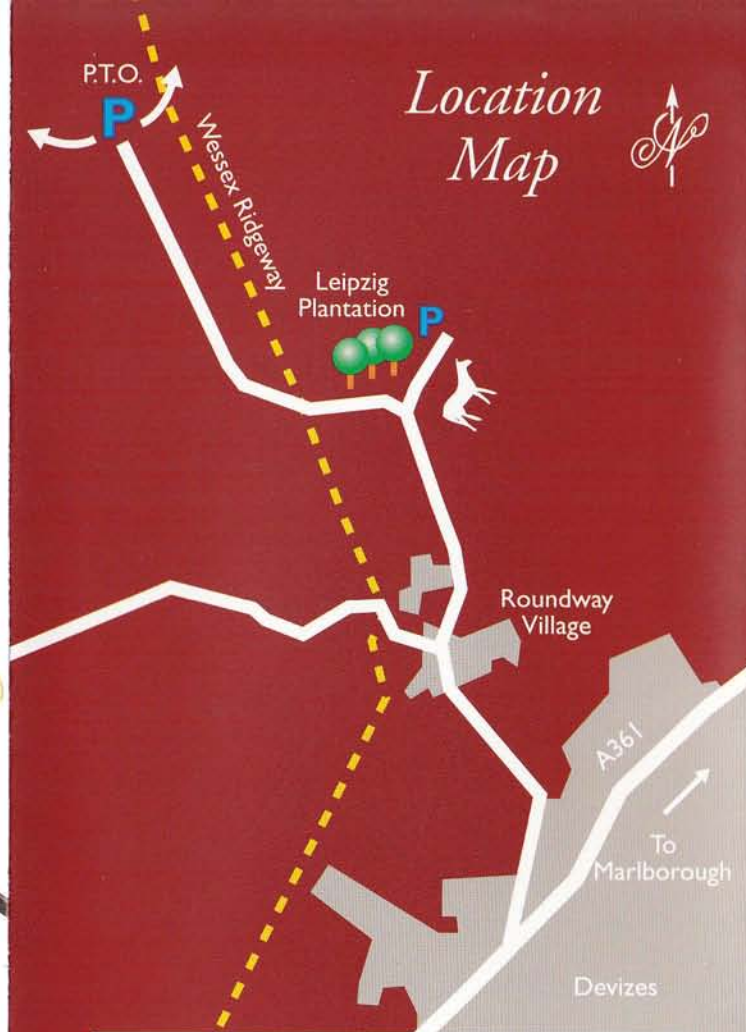
## On a Summer's day in 1643

a Royalist army came from Oxford to help their comrades who were bottled up in Devizes by an army of Parliamentarians. The Parliamentarians left the siege and came here to Roundway Down to meet the enemy.

A great cavalry battle ensued but despite having the best equipped cavalry regiment in the country and artillery and infantry support, the Parliamentarians were beaten by the Royalists. The Parliamentary cavalry ran away and some of them – desperate to escape the pursuing Royalists fled over the ridge either side of Oliver's Castle. Here, because of their extreme haste and the difficult nature of the descent, many of them tumbled to their deaths giving the name "Bloody Ditch" to the gully beyond Oliver's Castle.



**There are two other leaflets on the battle as well as panels on the site. The Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Long Street, Devizes also has much primary source material.**



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Battlefields Trust



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Devizes Development  
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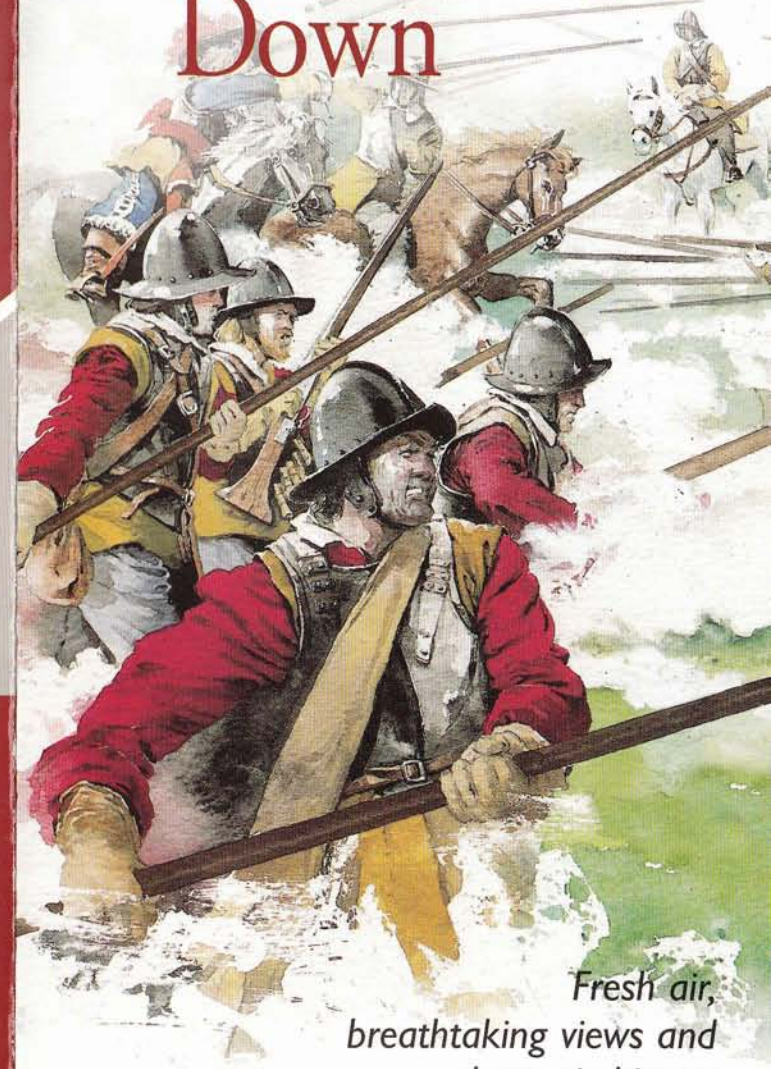
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A SHORT WALK ON

# the Battlefield of Roundway Down



*Fresh air,  
breathtaking views and  
dramatic history*

**The Great Civil War Battle at Devizes**





### *Roundway Hill*

The undulating chalk landscape of the Roundway battlefield changes as it extends from Roundway Hill towards the wooded Hill Covert, Olivers Castle (205m) and Beacon Hill. At the western edge, the landscape is dramatic and is dominated by the indented escarpment which falls steeply by some 130m to the flatter fields below.



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