

## "Â£200K FUNDING BOOST FOR NASEBY TOURISM WORK"

A project to boost tourism at Northamptonshire's historic Naseby battlefield site has secured funding of more than Â£200,000.

The money is part of Â£2m awarded by East Midlands Tourism to tourism and marketing projects in the region, under its Challenge Fund programme \* which is aimed at upgrading tourism facilities and enticing higher-spending overnight visitors to the region. The Naseby money will be used in the initial phases of its project to enhance visitor facilities at the site, where the decisive battle of the civil war was fought on 14th June 1645.

Naseby Project Management Committee, a sub-committee of The Battlefields Trust, recently unveiled the proposals to create 2 viewing platforms, further viewing areas and to carry out improvements to the 2 existing monument sites, as well as helping to preserve a site of great historical significance in the county. Ultimately, there are plans for a visitor centre, but this funding will cover early parts of the project.

The funding bid to East Midlands Tourism was submitted by Northamptonshire County Council, as a supporter of the Committee.

Cabinet Member for Leading Northamptonshire, Andre Gonzalez de Savage, said: "This is wonderful news. This funding will provide for some of the vital groundwork for this project. The success of future phases relies on letting people know that Naseby is a must-see for visitors to the county."

Richard Dickinson, chief executive, East Midlands Tourism said: "This fund was established to promote partnership activity and encourage large scale projects which would have maximum impact on increasing tourism in the region. Both funds were hugely oversubscribed and we had difficulty whittling down the applicants. However, the winning bids represent the best creative and practical thinking in terms of increasing visitor numbers and improving visitor facilities."

Chair of the Naseby Project Management Committee, Martin Marix Evans, said "This project grew from the energy and dedication of local people who persuaded the Battlefields Trust to support them. That support has grown both locally and country-wide, with Northamptonshire County Council throwing its weight behind the scheme in 2005 and now East Midlands Tourism giving it financial muscle. After five long years the Naseby Project has truly begun! There is a lot more work to do and we will need all the help we can get to realise the vision."