



Historian condemns lack of recognition

ONE of the country's top historians has condemned the lack of recognition given to a Northamptonshire battlefield where one of the most important clashes in Britain's history took place.

The 360th anniversary of the Battle of Naseby passed with hardly any recognition in June this year and the only permanent acknowledgement of the battle at the site is a small monument built in 1936.

During English Heritage's Festival of History held in the county at the weekend, historian David Starkey said the county should do a lot more to recognise its important place in history.

He said: "I think the way we've wiped the Civil War from our consciousness is disastrous.

"The battlefield at Naseby is not dealt with seriously at all and that's the place where Charles I was defeated. That was the key battle in the whole war.

"The last thing we should do is cover the field in waxworks but I really think the monument which is up there at the moment is very poor.

"It looks like some sort of fountain the Victorians would have built."

The Festival of History was held at Kelmars Hall just three miles away from Naseby and one of the highlights of the event was a recreation of the battle.

But even Civil War enthusiasts who took part admitted the Naseby site needed improving.

Retired prison officer Desmond Thomas travelled from Leeds to play a Musketeer in the battle.

He said: "The site is really dilapidated and it could do with a lot more on it.

"It's very sad that there's virtually nothing there.

"When you go up you expect to see something fantastic because this was such an important battle but there's just a little monument in a field which nobody knows about."

Mr Starkey also said Northamptonshire should do more to promote important historic events in the county such as the birth of Richard III and death of Mary Queen of Scots at Fotheringhay Castle.