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HS2 and the Edgcote battlefield

(High Speed 2; HS1 being the Channel Tunnel rail link)

Now that a proposed route has been published, the Battlefields Trust has been among the first to respond, saying that the Trust is 'very pleased that the proposed HS2 route had been adjusted to avoid a number of heritage sites', but concerned nevertheless that 'whilst the revised route avoids Edgcote House it appears that the railway will still destroy a significant part of the probable location of the battlefield. Although it is called the Battle of Edgcote the evidence suggests that the battle was actually fought on Danesmoor, a mile or so to the east of Edgcote. Indeed, in some early accounts it was called the Battle of Danesmoor.'

The Battlefields Trust says that it is in principle 'neither for nor against HS2' but it believes that it is essential that the battlefield at Edgcote is recognised as an historic site of national and not purely local importance. The Trust goes on to say that it would prefer the route of HS2 to be diverted away from the battlefield area because 'building HS2 through the centre of this site as is currently planned will almost certainly lead to the destruction of valuable archaeological evidence and quite probably the destruction and desecration of the mass grave pits which we believe to be in the area.'