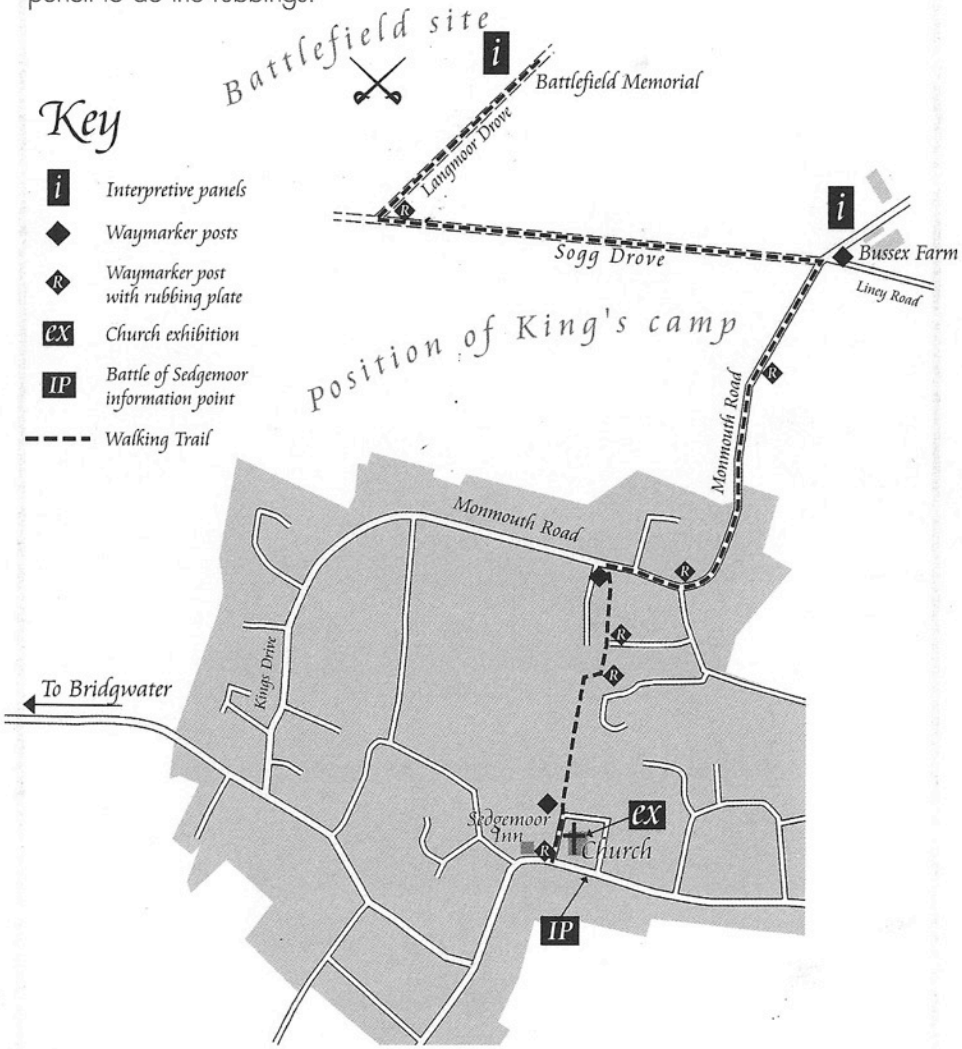
This waymarked trail leads through the village to the Battlefield Memorial. Six of the waymarkers have rubbing plates related to the battle. Allow 1-1.5hrs for the round trip, depending on the age of your children. Please bring a crayon or pencil to do the rubbings.



For further information about the Monmouth Rebellion please visit the Blake Museum, Bridgwater
tel: 01278 456127
or www.somersettimeline.org.uk

Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED

Sedgemoor

A Family Activity Trail

to the Battlefield Memorial, Westonzoyland

A 1 hour walk

The Battle of Sedgemoor, 1685

The Battle of Sedgemoor took place in the early hours of 6th July, 1685, on the open moors between Westonzoyland and Chedzoy. It was the climax of the rebellion led by the Duke of Monmouth against King James II.

The rebels marched silently across the moor from Bridgwater, hoping to surprise the Royal troops. However, the attack failed and the rebels were defeated by the more experienced Royal Army.

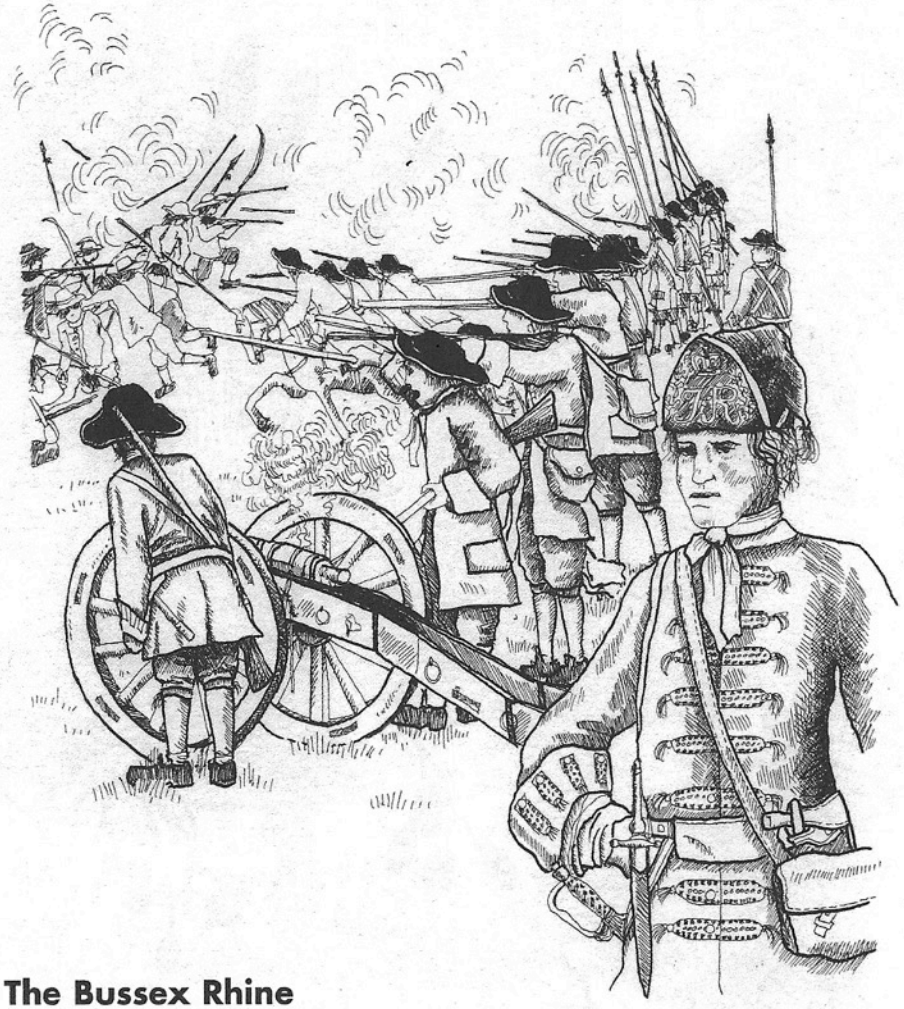
The Sedgemoor Inn is one of the few village buildings that was built before the battle. Officers from the Royal Army stayed there.

The pub sign tells the story of the battle.
Can you draw a scene from it?

Rubbing 6: Cannon
The Royal Army had six cannon but the rebels only had three.

The Memorial

Continue to the Battlefield Memorial, which stands at the heart of the battlefield. It is now surrounded by fields but was open moorland in 1685. Imagine it swept by gunfire in the early hours of July 6th!



The Bussex Rhine

A wide ditch, the Bussex Rhine, separated the two armies. It no longer exists but you may be able to pick out where it ran by looking in the field on the opposite side of Langmoor Drove to the Memorial.

Rubbing 1: Westonzoyland Church Tower

The Royal Army was well-trained, fully equipped and uniformed. They stayed at Westonzoyland on 5th July, whilst the rebels were in Bridgwater. The footsoldiers camped on the field to the north of the village and the cavalry stayed in the village.

The estimated size of the Royal Army was 2,800.

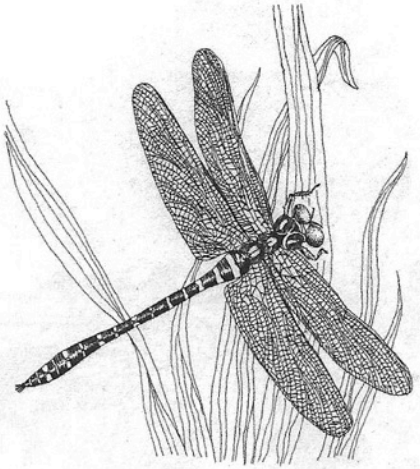
Cavalry troops were paid more and felt superior to the footsoldiers.

Wildlife

As you walk towards the battlefield look for plants and animals that thrive in the drainage ditches and the edges of the drove.

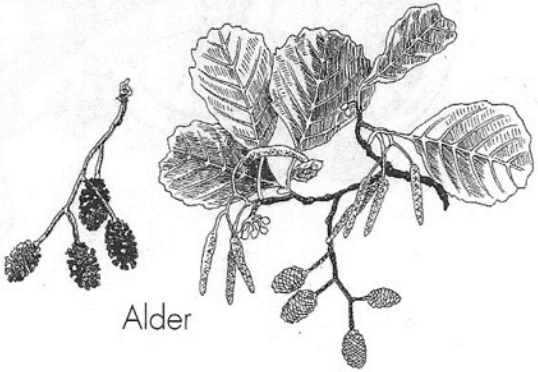
Can you see any of these?

Bumble Bee on deadnettle



Dragonfly

Hawthorn



Alder

The Royal Camp

The Royal Army camped on the land that is now fields on the left-hand side of Sogg Drove.

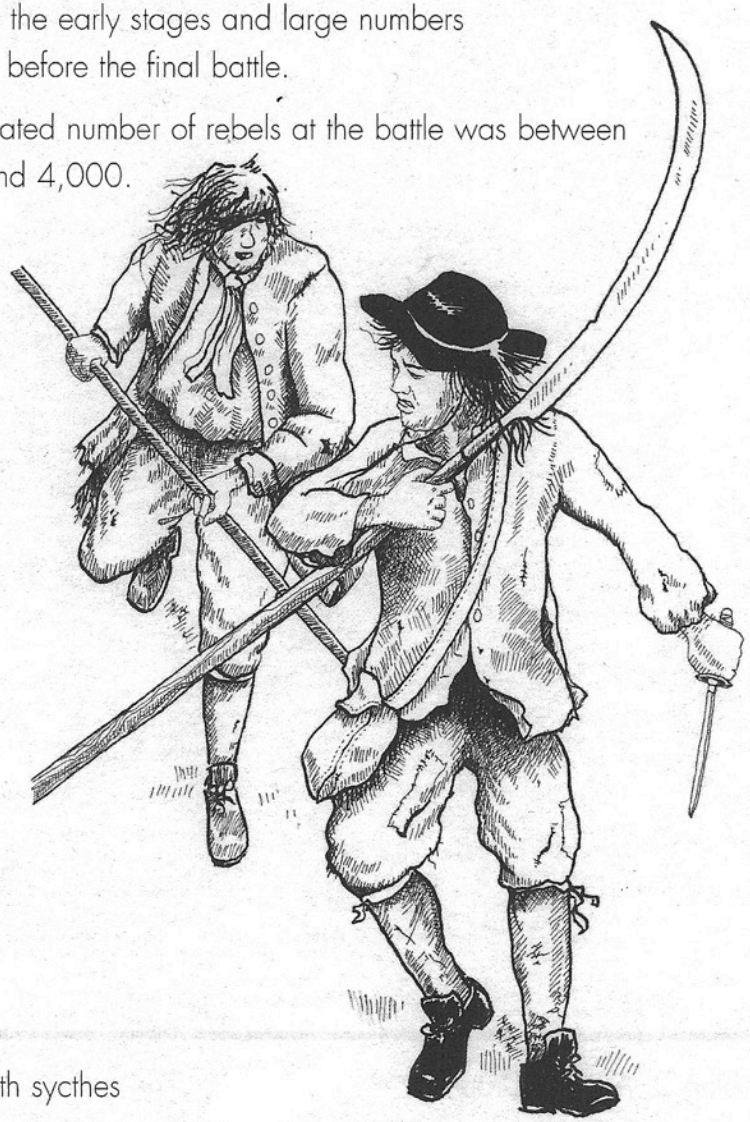
Rubbing 2: A Royal Dragoon

The Rebels

Most were from West Country towns and villages. A few had uniforms and modern muskets. Some used modified farm implements like scythes and others brought weapons from home.

The size of the rebel army varied during the campaign, with many joining in the early stages and large numbers deserting before the final battle.

The estimated number of rebels at the battle was between 3,000 and 4,000.



Rebels with sycthes

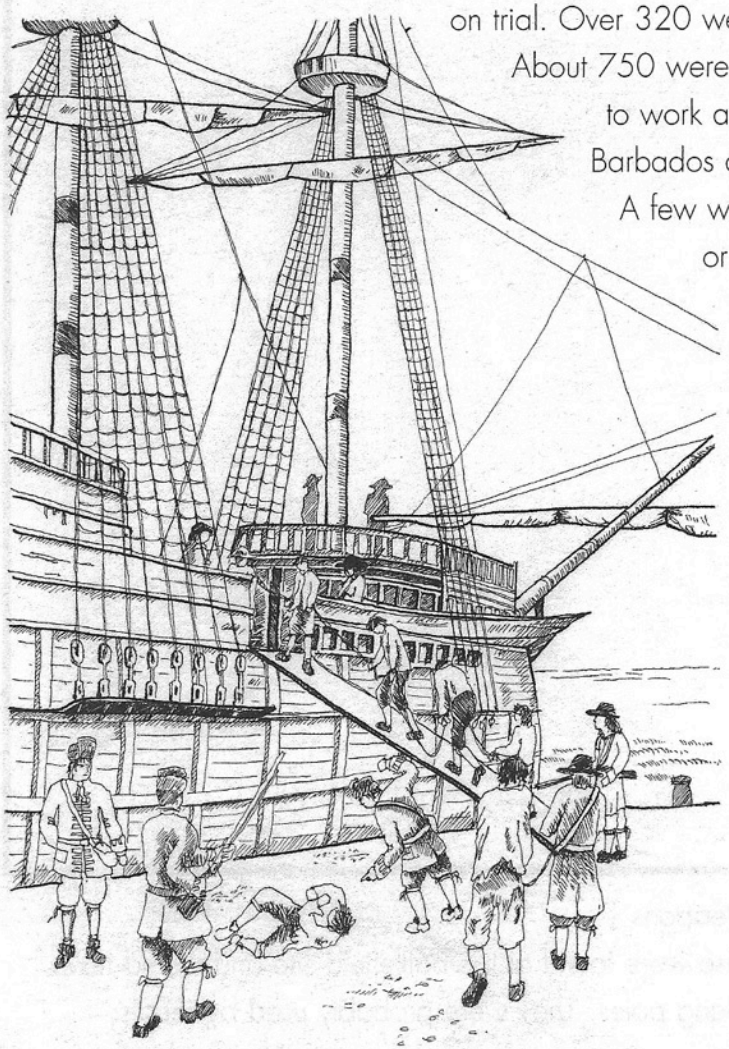
Rubbing 5: Hanging
Most were executed by hanging, drawing and quartering.

Casualties

Over 300 rebels died on the battlefield and another 1,000 were killed as they fled. Deaths were much lower in the Royal Army with only 200 troops killed.

Punishment for the Defeated Rebels

After the battle around 1,500 suspected rebels were arrested and put on trial. Over 320 were executed. About 750 were sent on ships to work as slaves in Barbados and Jamaica. A few were pardoned or escaped.

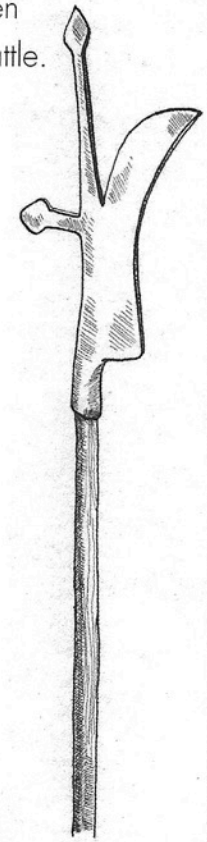


Rubbing 3: Hats

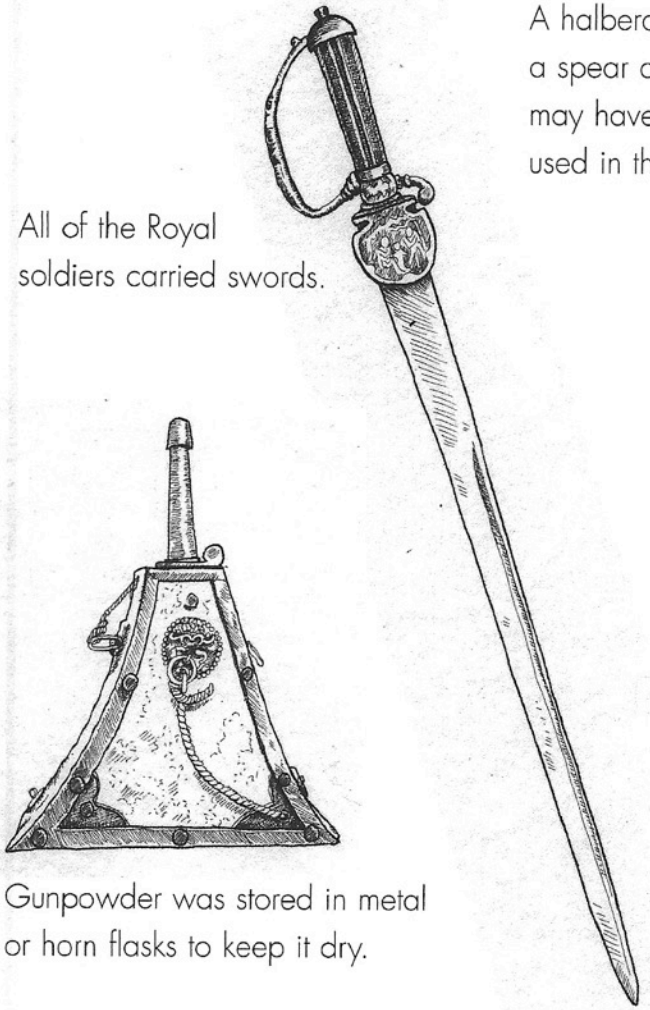
Most of the soldiers wore wide-brimmed hats made of felt, but some of the Royal cavalry wore metal helmets.

Weapons

A halberd (a cross between a spear and an axe) that may have been used in the battle.



All of the Royal soldiers carried swords.



Gunpowder was stored in metal or horn flasks to keep it dry.

Can you find any reference to the battle near the rubbing post?

(Clue: Look at road names)

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Rubbing 4: Weapons

Blades like these were found at the battlefield site and would have been fixed to long poles. They were probably used by rebels.