

Battle of Ridgefield

Historians and Archaeologists Study

The Battle of Ridgefield

The Ridgefield Historical Society and State Office of Historic Preservation have been awarded a National Park Service Grant to study the Battle of Ridgefield. The grant's Advisory Group has selected Heritage Consultants as the firm to lead the research on the Battle. The research team includes Dr. Kevin McBride, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Connecticut, Dr. David Naumec, Military Historian, and George David, archaeologist, and mapping specialist.

Over the next few months, the research team will conduct archaeological investigations of the Battle which occurred on April 27, 1777. The consultants and volunteers will be on the ground introducing themselves to

landowners and the project.

The success of the project is dependent on landowner permissions that grant the research team access to investigate properties associated with the Battle.

Join us in this exciting, nationally funded project!



For more information please contact the Ridgefield Historical Society. You may email us at bor.grant@ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org, or call (203) 438-5821. Ask to join our email list for the latest findings and news.



American Battlefield PROTECTION PROGRAM
National Park Service
"Working Together To Preserve America's Historic Battlefields"

This project is funded by the National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) who provides funding designed to research, protect, and preserve battlefields important in American history.

For more information about this project visit the Ridgefield Historical Society website at ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org

Battle of Ridgefield – Frequently Asked Questions

Does anyone have to participate in the program?

No, it is completely voluntary.

Can private property be taken or impacted by the National Park Service?

No, private property cannot be taken by any means.

How do you plan on surveying my property?

We would like permission to simply view your property to decide what potential there may be to find evidence of the Battle.

If your property is of interest, we would like permission to survey your property using metal detectors. We anticipate most of the evidence will be metallic.

If your property yields particularly strong evidence of Battle we would like permission to conduct a limited archaeological investigation.

If I allow anyone to dig on my property will it ruin my yard?

No. It is standard professional archaeological practice to return the excavated area to its original state. This means backfilling any land that was dug and reseeding the area with grass.

What if evidence of a battlefield is discovered? What does that mean for me and my property?

Even if evidence is found, you will not be restricted in your rights of private property in the use, development or sale of your property.

Landholders are under no obligations whatsoever to participate in the Battlefield Protection Program. Again, participation in a survey is voluntary.

What if any artifacts are found on my property?

Artifacts, notes, and any records amassed by the Battle of Ridgefield ABPP grant will be donated to the Ridgefield Historical Society.

Are there any restrictions to private lands or land use if the property is designated as part of a battlefield?

None. If the property is modified or the integrity is negatively affected the property is simply no longer part of the battlefield.



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Battle of Ridgefield
Landowner Permission to Conduct Archeological Research

I _____

Who owns property at: _____

Hereby give permission representatives of Heritage Consultants, LLC to conduct archeological research at the above-referenced property. I acknowledge that this research is associated with the National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program grant "Battle of Ridgefield: Research and Long-term Stewardship (June 19, 2020)" awarded to the Ridgefield Historical Society. I acknowledge that the purpose of the grant is to document the battlefields and sites associated with the above-referenced event and will include archeological investigations on the above-referenced property to identify artifacts associated with the Battle of Ridgefield. If associated artifacts are identified, they will be used to assess the integrity, boundaries and significance of the entire battlefield site for eventual inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. I also acknowledge that any artifacts recovered from the above-referenced property are owned by the Ridgefield Historical Society.

I acknowledge this research will occur between the present time and August 31, 2022 with the following stipulations:

1. Archeological research will consist of three phases; a) preliminary walkover of the property, b) metal detector survey, c) recovery and identification of objects located during the metal detector survey;
2. Prior to any additional archeological investigations, I will be notified by phone and letter as to the precise date when the archeological investigations will take place;
3. If I wish to be present during the archeological investigations, the investigations will be scheduled on a day(s) when I can be present;
4. No archeological investigations in the form of excavations will take place without my expressed permission in writing;
5. If I decide to permit any excavation, the land shall be restored to its pre-existing condition;
6. Any person entering the property does so at their own risk, and I bear no responsibility for injury or loss;
7. I will receive a preliminary report of the findings within one month of the investigations, and will receive a copy of the final report within six months of the completion of the grant.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return by U.S. mail, email to:

Ridgefield Historical Society
4 Sunset Lane
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Phone: (203) 438-5821

Email: bor.grant@ridgefieldhistoricalsociety.org