



THE FOVANT BADGES SOCIETY

Founded 1949

Registered Charity No. 1045087

Patron: HRH The Earl of Wessex KG, KCVO

**Paper prepared for English Heritage Southwest Office -
Location of proposed Centenary Badge in relation to adjacent surviving WW1
Badges and WW1 archaeology.**

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Contents

1. Introduction – The Centenary Education Project.....	3
2. The proposed Centenary Badge – design and location	5
3. Calculations and scale drawings	7



THE FOVANT BADGES SOCIETY

1. Introduction – The Centenary Education Project

The Fovant Badges Society has decided to mark the Centenary of World War One and of the first badge being cut in 2016 by developing an education project designed to involve a wider and younger audience in the badges story. The purpose being to secure the long term future of these memorials. With the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Society has already:

- Held a one day seminar on the subject of “War, Landscape and Memory in the Twentieth Century” jointly with The University of Southampton (U of S) History Department. This involved some of the leading academics in the field and attended by over 80 members of the public.
- Again with the U of S, hosted and supported history undergraduates to research the badges and the WW1 camp the output from the project being an interactive presentation to a local primary school.
- With Southampton Solent University Media Studies Department, defined a project for undergraduates to produce videos and other media for inclusion in the Societies planned update of its website.
- Employed a graduate student to develop WW1 educational sources for 12-16 year olds for addition to the website later this year. A spin off being the completion of an MA thesis on the history of the Fovant Badges.

The Society intends to continue and enhance the education project over the next four years. Part 2 of our Centenary Project involves widening the scope of the project to include:

- The employment of an Education Outreach Officer to visit local schools and organisations to spread the word and arrange and lead visits to the badges site.
- Improvements to the visit experience by (hopefully jointly with our colleagues of Sutton Mandeville) introducing updated information plaques in the visitors lay by to include all the badges that were carved in WW1 and to mutually direct visitors to The Fovant/Sutton Badges respectively.
- Lastly the construction of a badge in 2016 that will both mark the centenary of the badges and present a great opportunity to carry out some “experimental archaeology” by testing the various theories about how the badges were constructed. It will also enable appropriate re-enactment of WW1 badge building. The underlying assumption being that young people from educational institutions and from the community will be involved in the construction the badge. This will be filmed for the Fovant Badges Archive with extracts being posted on our website. The U of S and Southampton Solent have already indicated their interest in taking part. The construction of the Centenary Badge has, and will involve U of S Archaeology Department in the project both in the planning of the construction and

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in the archaeology of the wider site. Plans are being prepared for research projects for undergraduates and postgraduate students. The output from this work can be made available to English Heritage. Cranborne Chase AONB are supportive of the project and are also interested in the output from the archaeological element of the project.

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THE FOVANT BADGES SOCIETY

2. The proposed Centenary Badge – design and location

The Society has considered restoring a further badge as a means of marking the centenary and this has some attractions however which badge should this be? There were around 20 created in WW1 and the Society regularly receives requests for this or that badge to be restored. Restoring one badge during the centenary will almost certainly lead to demands for further restorations. The Society does not have the funds to maintain two or three more badges. It was also thought that restoring the badge of a long defunct regiment would have only limited appeal to a younger audience.

Design - The Fovant Badges have spent some time considering an appropriate design that would both echo the sacrifices made in World War One and have a current and future relevance to the public at large. For these reasons we have decided on a simple “poppy” design encircled by “1916” and “2016” legends. So as not to distract from or overawe the current badges on the hillside the overall size of the badge will be limited to 25m. We have also sought the advice of Neil Gregor, Professor of Modern European History at The University of Southampton, regarding the appropriateness of adding a centenary badge to the current memorial and the most appropriate design.

Location – the Society and its advisors (University of Southampton Archaeology Department) have spent considerable time deciding on the location of the badge, the following factors were considered:

1. Avoiding all known archaeological sites in and around the current scheduled area
2. Minimising the impact of the badge on the current array of badges by avoiding “squeezing” the centenary badge between existing badges
3. Avoiding close proximity to other features such as footpaths and wooded areas
4. Ensuring that the badge is visible from the A30 road lay by viewing site
5. Ideally we would prefer to locate the new badge within the scheduled area so that it too would be protected.

Some of the alternative sites considered were:

- Locating the badge to the west of the badges, outside the scheduled area was rejected because the badge would barely be visible from the viewing point to the east of the badges due to the southerly curve of the hillside.
- Locating the badge to the east of the badges, outside the scheduled area was rejected because of the close proximity of the (lost) Royal Army Medical Corps badge and minor WW1 chalk features.
- There is a gap between the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces Badge and the (created in 1970) Royal Corps of Signals Badge however this area is bisected west to east by a footpath. In addition this area had many WW1 minor chalk features.

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- Various locations above and below the current badges where also considered but the resulting badge would be of very limited visibility.

The location chosen, between the Post Office Rifles and the Devonshire badges (both WW1) meets the criteria outlined above. There is a very large gap of approximately 130m between these two badges due to the location of the 35th Training Regiment “Drums” badge. This badge has been lost. Locating the centenary badge in this large gap would restore greater uniformity and balance to the range of badges on the hillside. Other benefits of this location include the avoidance of the smaller WW1 chalk features that are present in the centre and eastern end of the range. It should also be mentioned that the slope is reasonable and clear of scrub. There remains though the need to demonstrate how the new badge can avoid impacting the “drums” badge; this is discussed in Section 3.



The proposed site of the Centenary Badge looking North, Devonshire badge to the left, POR badge to the right.



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3. Calculations and scale drawings

We are fortunate that there are a number of surviving photographs of the Fovant Badges many from World War 1 and also dating from between the wars. These give us a good idea of the quantity of WW1 archaeology and more importantly its location in relation to the surviving WW1 badges. Since we are aware of the dimensions of the surviving badges, and have re-checked the dimensions of the two badges adjacent to the proposed new badge location, we can use these photographs to help us produce scale drawings of the proposed new badge and the distances from the adjacent badges.

It is true that the use of photographs has some limitations particularly on a sloping surface but the levels of accuracy required are fairly coarse, these chalk features are very large!

A brief survey was made to determine the approximate location the centre of the POR and Devonshire badges by means of a sat navigation compass. Whilst on the hill, the dimensions of these two badges were checked using a steel engineering tape measure. The results are as follows:

Badge	Location of centre	Distance top from centre	Distance bottom from centre	Height	Width
Post Office Rifles	51° 3' 11" N 1° 58' 51" W	23 m	21 m	44 m	42.8 m
Devonshire	51° 3' 8" N 1° 58' 53" W	16.2 m	15.8 m	32 m	29.9 m

There are a number of photographs of the 35th Training Regiment "Drums" badge. The report prepared by Strutt and Barker for the Society¹ has a number of photographs of this badge however one (SU0128/12, NMR) has an image of the complete badge with the Post Office Rifles badge to the East and The Devonshire Regiment badge to the West. This image has been cropped, enlarged and inverted to improve clarity. This (See Appendix A) has been used to calculate the dimensions of the "Drums" badge by scaling up from the known dimensions of the two adjacent badges. This indicates that the "Drums" design extends down the hillside into the POR badge by approximately 12.5 m. A further calculation of this dimension on a different image produced a result of 13.5 m. Based on the actual measurements of the POR badge, which, it can be seen, is asymmetric being longer above the centre than below² the linear space below the lost "Drums" badge available to the Centenary Badge can be calculated as follows:

¹ See SU0128/12 dated 1930 page 10 of *The Fovant Badges and Immediate Area. Assessment of Potential of Archaeological Remains Compiled by K Strutt and D Barker, 2014.*

² Probably to deal with the foreshortening effect of viewing the badge at a distance.



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Linear space below the lost “Drums” badge is = $23\text{m} - 13.5\text{m} = 9.5\text{m} + 21\text{m} = \underline{\mathbf{30.5m}}$.

The proposed Centenary Badge is 25m in diameter at the maximum extent, so the clearance between this and the site of the “Drums” badge is = $30.5\text{m} - 25\text{m} = \underline{\mathbf{5.5m}}$

We would like to locate the Centenary Badge as high up the slope as possible but still leave a significant safety margin to ensure we avoid disturbing WW1 archaeology so we propose to locate the centre of the badge 15 m (the badge would be located centrally between the POR and The Devonshire badges) above the base of the POR badge which will result in the top of the Centenary Badge being approximately **3m** below the “Drums” badge site.

Richard Bullard

POR - Actual
42m w 40mh
- measured
49mm x 48mm
(and ratios)
are 0.86 and
0.833 respecti-
-vely.

Average
scale is
 $1\text{mm} = 0.83\text{m}$

Centenary
badge area
 ≤ 25
or $25/0.83$
mm
 ≈ 30 mm

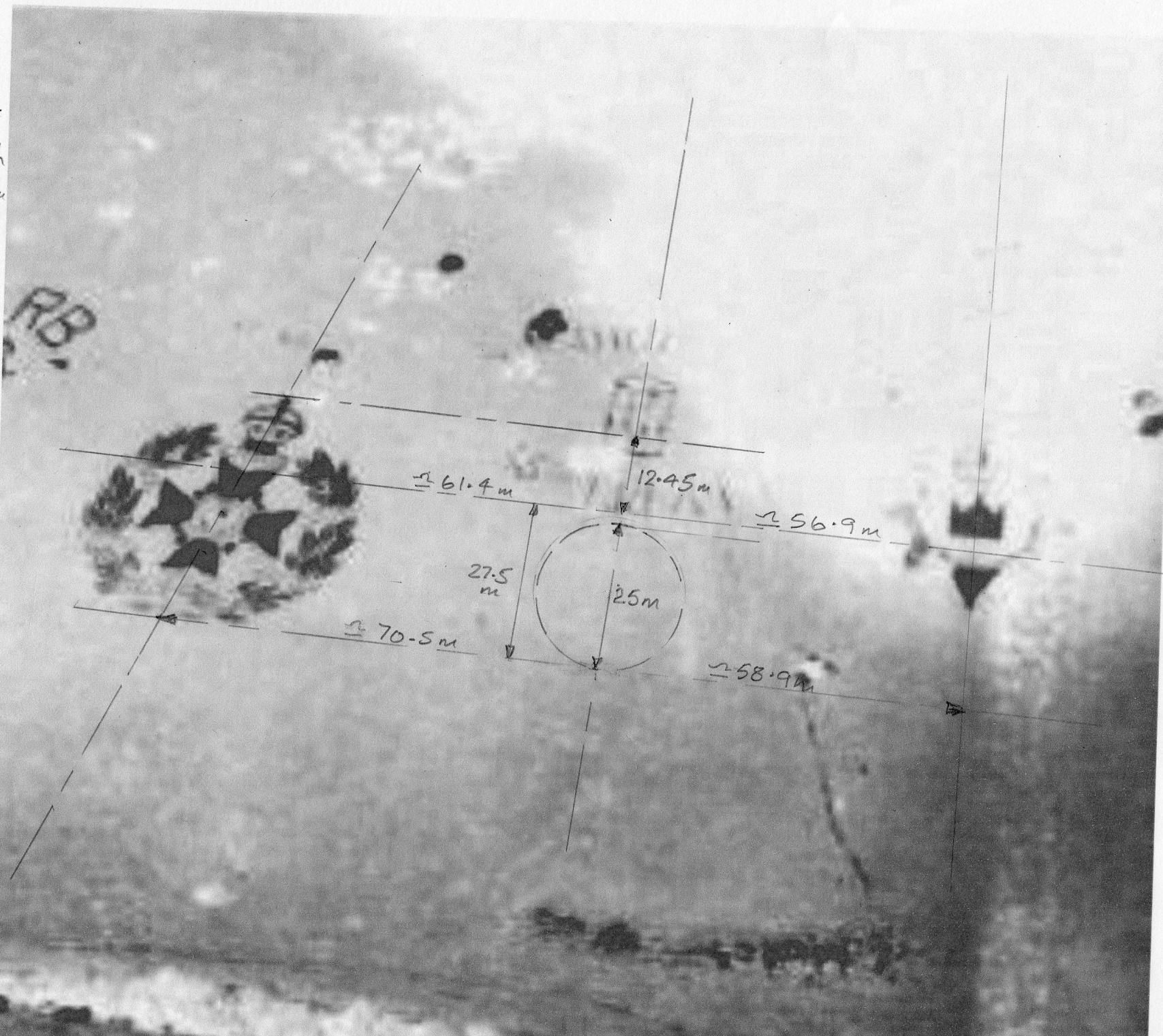
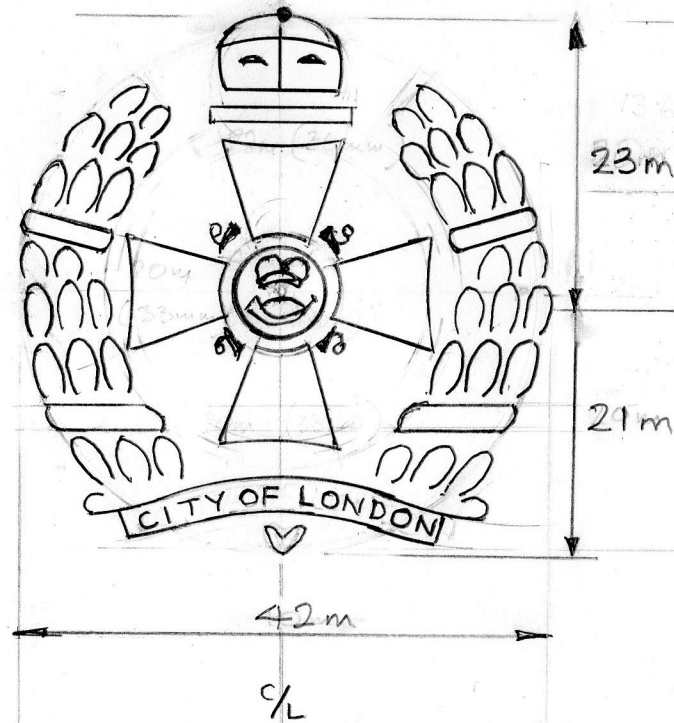


DIAGRAM OF LOCATION WRT
THE POST OFFICE RIFLES & DEVONSHIRE
REGIMENT WW1 BADGES. SHOWING EXTENT
OF LOST "DRUMS" BADGE.

600:1
1mm = 0.606m

Location of
Post Office Rifles

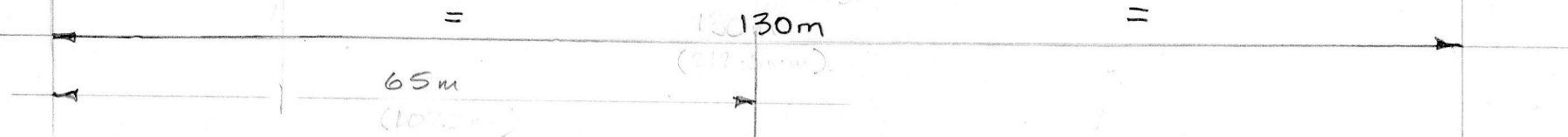
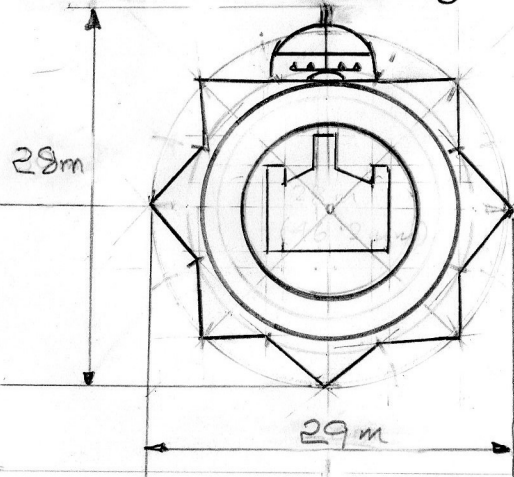


Max.
extent of
"drums"



Location of
Proposed Centenary Badge

Location of
Devonshire Regiment



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Scale: 1:600
(1mm = 0.6m)

BB 19.7.20