

Horrible Science Author finds 'Sequel' to the Battle of Hastings

Nick Arnold author of the *Horrible Science* books has discovered the site of a re-match of the Battle of Hastings in Devon. The discovery was announced in February 2016 and made national and international news. (See photo below: Nick Arnold at the newly discovered battlefield.)

Fought in 1069 the long-forgotten battle matched two sons of King Harold (the man killed at Hastings) and the second cousin of William the Conqueror. The Battlefields Trust and ten of the world's leading experts on the Norman Conquest have backed the discovery with some calling it 'a major contribution to medieval history'. Arnold published the discovery – the fruit of five years of research - as an academic paper.

The battle was the second major clash of arms of the Norman Conquest and involved 7-8000 men – perhaps 3000 were killed. According to Nick Arnold: "The Battle of Hastings won William the crown but King Harold's family weren't finally defeated until the Battle of Northam. This was the place where the Norman Conquest became irreversible."



Nick Arnold – a trained historian as well as a children's Science writer – was inspired to seek the battlefield by stories his grandfather told him.

He found the location by combining the original sources with landscape history and tide and dusk data from the day of the battle. According to Nick

Arnold "there was no one *eureka* moment – it was more like a jigsaw with every piece fitting perfectly. In addition there's circumstantial evidence and an amazing cast of supporting characters including a headless saint, a treacherous Abbot and a conscience-stricken queen."

Background information: Nick Arnold is the world's bestselling children's science author, the first British author to tour China and the only author ever to have saved a UK library from closure and organized its complete refurbishment. He is patron of the Appledore Book Festival, which he founded in 2007. For more information email: nickarnold.website@yahoo.co.uk