

The Battle of Shrewsbury 21st July 1403.

by Susan Laflin-Barker

To understand the battle, some familiarity with the art of medieval warfare is desirable. It seems likely that at Shrewsbury, most of the armies were on foot and consisted of armoured men-at-arms and longbowmen, with only a few of the knights mounted during the battle. Both Prince Hal (wounded in the face) and Hotspur (killed) may have been among the minority on horseback and may have had their faces exposed to be easily recognisable by their followers.

Hotspur arrived first and chose his position. It was the best he could find, but not a very steep slope. The first photograph shows the slope (under yellow stubble) on the left and the square church tower among the trees to the right. You will have to imagine how the ground falls off because the ground level at the bottom of the tower is hidden by the trees.



The next picture shows the view from the stubble field looking towards the church. "Akeley" field is in the centre of the picture and to in front of the church, and this is probably the "field called Hateley" where the much of the battle took place.



